Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXX, Issue No. 90

www.saipantribune.com | FRIDAY MAY 8, 2020 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

Supermoms in the front line. PAGE 6
Being a mom during a pandemic. PAGE 5

75¢

PSS staff gets owed salaries

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Over 800 Public School System teachers and personnel received their salaries for pay period 8 after receiving over $1 million from the CNMI government

According to Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada, over 800 locally funded teachers and personnel were paid 80 hours for pay period 8 yesterday afternoon. Pay period 8 was the first full missed payroll after the government shut down as a result of COVID-19.

"It was really a prayer answered and it couldn't have come at a better time because

See PSS on Page 4

PSS backs out of MPLT loan

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System will no longer be taking out a loan with the Marianas Public Land Trust.

In an interview with Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada, he said a loan is no

See LOAN on Page 4

Rota and Tinian to receive PPEs

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As the CNMI continues to receive more medical supplies for front-liners, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muña announced in a Facebook video last May 6 that the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force will be sharing Personal Pro-

See ROTA on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, May 7, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	149	2	151
Recovered	123	0	123
Active	20	2	22
Deaths	6*	0	6*

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	15	0	15
Recovered	12	0	12
Active	1	0	1
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			2,236

*Total includes a sailor from the USS *Theodore Roosevelt*.

**Saipan has 1 active COVID-19 case, with 1,984 persons tested through the community-based testing at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Guam has two new confirmed positive COVID-19 cases, with one case who was previously released from isolation and is now back in active isolation.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

'It is a lifetime commitment'

Photo shows a portion of the façade of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. Inset, TanHoldings CEO Jerry Tan shows Gov. Ralph DLG Torres the resort's surroundings yesterday at the public announcement of IHG's takeover of the management of the hotel.
KRIZEL TUAZON/BEA CABRERA

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

» Tans commit $3.5M to CBF

TanHoldings CEO Jerry Tan formally announced yesterday that the company has inked a contract with InterContinental Hotel Group early this week for the hotel chain to manage the Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan. IHG will later rebrand the hotel as Crowne Plaza Resort in 2022. This deal was executed after the Department of Public Lands extended Fiesta's lease for another 40 years three weeks ago.

Tan, who presided over

See LIFETIME on Page 4

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Keeping open during the time of COVID-19 felt like a sense of duty for Pepoy's Restacafe.
PAGE 13

ASIA
Taiwan is making a new push for inclusion in the World Health Organization Assembly.
PAGE 15

SCIENCE & TECH
Meet your new galactic neighbor: A black hole left over from the death of a young star.
PAGE 18

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

A Mother is she who can take the place of all others but whose place no one else can take.
Happy Mother's Day!
From the management and staff of
Tan Holdings
HEALTH IS WEALTH
Tan Siu Lin Foundation

Local

CNMI fares poorly in US press survey on COVID-19 reporting

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Press Freedom Tracker has given failing marks for the Northern Mariana Islands in how it provides information on the status of COVID-19 in the CNMI, including its lack of daily updates.

According to the research, which surveyed all 56 states and territories, the CNMI government has the worst record and fails across three metrics: it has no regular COVID-19 press briefings where members of the general media can attend and ask live questions and follow-ups. Aside from this, there are reports of restricted access to COVID-19 information.

In comparison, and as a direct contrast, 11 appear to have regular press briefings, general press attendance, with live questions and follow-ups, and with no reports of restricted access. These include Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Wisconsin, Wyoming, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

While Guam has regular press briefings and general press attendance, the report says it has restrictions on live questions and follow-ups, as well as reports of restricted access.

When asked to comment on the report, press secretary Kevin Bautista said, "The process is never perfect, and we can never please everyone. But we know that we continue to respond to our media partners as best we can, give them all the accurate information, and we work together here in the CNMI to protect ourselves from this virus."

Bautista insists that the administration has responded to inquiries from local CNMI media partners upon request, and in press conferences held after every public event with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

BANK OF SAIPAN
Put Your Money to Work
1.25% APY*
3-YEAR CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT
$250,000.00 MINIMUM DEPOSIT REQUIRED
Lock in this great CD rate.
This is a limited time offer,
so come visit or call us today!
BANKOFSAIPAN.COM | GARAPAN - (670) 233-6260/2 | TINIAN - (670) 433-0332/9 | ROTA - (670) 532-2265
*A $250,000.00 minimum deposit transferred from another financial institution and a checking account with Bank of Saipan are required. APY means Annual Percentage Yield and is guaranteed for the term of the Certificate of Deposit. A penalty may be charged for withdrawal before the maturity date.
Regulation I Deposit Insurance Notice: Bank of Saipan deposits are insured by a private payment guaranty, which will pay up to $250,000 per account if it fails. Bank of Saipan is not federally insured. If it fails, the Federal Government does not guarantee that you will get your money back.

JOIN OUR TEAM
We are looking for passionate and energetic people, who are customer-focused to be part of our growing team.

Immediate Available Position
Anticipated starting date of employment: June 8, 2020

Engineering & Security

- **Position:** General Maintenance
- **Location:** Chalan Pale Arnold Main Road, San Roque
- **Openings:** 10
- **Full or Part Time:** Full Time
- **Salary Range:** $8.33/ Hourly
- **Job Duties:**
  - Perform Routine preventative maintenance to ensure that machines continue to run smoothly, building systems operate efficiently, or the physical condition of building does not deteriorate.
- **Qualification Requirements:**
  - High School diploma or equivalent
  - 2 years work experience related to General Maintenance

- **Position:** Security Guard
- **Location:** Chalan Pale Arnold Main Road, San Roque
- **Openings:** 3
- **Full or Part Time:** Full Time
- **Salary Range:** $8.00/ Hourly
- **Job Duties:**
  - Inspecting and patrolling hotel premises and/or employing housing regularly, perform daily inspections on all employees at hotel premises and/or employee housing, providing daily written reports on a daily basis, adhering to company policies and legal regulations
- **Qualification Requirements:**
  - High School diploma or equivalent
  - 12 months work experiences related to Security Guard/Safety

Interested applicants can apply with Micronesia Resort Inc. dba: Kensington Hotel Saipan via walk-in at San Roque, Monday – Friday, 8:00AM – 5:00PM except for holiday or submit resume via email at hr@mrisaipan.com or Interested applicant may contact Human Resources Office at telephone no. 670-237-4557/4505.

Kensington offers exceptional benefits for Full and Part Time associates. Benefits may include Paid Time Off, Holiday Pay, Premium Pay for Night Shift, Duty Meal, Hotel Discounts, Optional Basic Health Insurance and Optional Dormitory Accomodations.

SAIPAN KENSINGTON HOTEL

TSL Foundation donates over $3,000 worth of relief goods

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Lions Clubs International District 204, Region 2 give thanks to the Tan Siu Lin Foundation for the donation.

The Tan Siu Lin Foundation donated over $3,000 worth of relief goods to Lions Clubs International District 204, which the club distributed to over 200 families.

Lions Clubs International District 204, Region 2 received a donation from Tan Siu Lin Foundation last Sunday, which consisted of items like cereals, fresh milk, juicy juice, peanut butter, and SPAM products worth $3,500 that were later distributed to 202 families and individuals.

The six clubs under District 204, Region 2 gave away the items in Kagman, Koblerville, Chalan Kanoa, San Antonio, Dandan, and Garapan, giving away 32-35 care packages per location.

"We are so grateful for the donation of TSL Foundation, especially to Mr. Jerry Tan and to the TSLF executive director Ms. Merlie Tolentino for accommodating our request," said Region 2 chair Annamae Adaza.

Adaza added that the Lions Club is also thankful for the support of Atoy Banting, the district's vice district governor elect, and zone chairs Al Cabael and Argie Buensalido.

Adaza said many are still asking for care packages, but the club can only do so much as they are also dependent on donors like the TSL Foundation.

Earlier this month, the Lion's Club Region 2 helped 30 families by giving each $35 vouchers to purchase food and other necessities. The club also distributed 20 meals from Kentucky Fried Chicken to people in the Chalan Kanoa area who are living in tents.

Prior to the KFC meals, Region 2 held a relief good distribution that served 86 recipients. The club gave away packages that included a case of cup noodles and a pack of butane.

The District 204, Region 2 is composed of six clubs that include Saipan Fil-American Lions Club led by Eden Mercado, Saipan Unity LC led by Elizabeth Escober, Saipan Marianas LC led by Ladyvir Canape, Saipan Alliance LC led by Danny Robles, Saipan Natibu LC led by Manny Castro, and Saipan Centennial LC led by Arceli Lizama.

Each Lion's Club is autonomous, which means each club can create their own fundraisers and projects but all six clubs can work as one under Region 2. To learn more about Lion's Club International, you can visit their website at www.lionsclubs.org. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

Emergency Food & Shelter Program awards $178.6K grant to the CNMI

The CNMI has been awarded federal funds made available through the Department of Homeland Security/FEMA under the Emergency Food and Shelter Program national board program.

The NMI has been chosen to receive $77,220 in annual Phase 37 funding plus an additional $101,400 to support emergency COVID-19 relief efforts to supplement emergency food and shelter programs in the Commonwealth.

The selection was made by a national board that is chaired by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency and consists of representatives from American Red Cross; Catholic Charities, USA; National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA; The Jewish Federations of North America, The Salvation Army; and, United Way Worldwide.

The NMI local board will determine how the funds awarded to the CNMI are to be distributed among the emergency food and shelter programs run by local service agencies. Under the terms of the grant, local agencies chosen to receive funds must: 1) be private voluntary nonprofits or units of government, 2) be eligible to receive Federal funds, 3) have an accounting system, 4) practice nondiscrimination, 5) have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs, and 6) if they are a private voluntary organization, have a voluntary board. Qualifying agencies are urged to apply.

The CNMI local board has distributed Emergency Food and Shelter funds previously to The Salvation Army, Empty Vessel Ministry, Karidat Social Services, Division of Youth Services, The Saipan Mayor's Office. Public or private voluntary agencies interested in applying for program funds should contact John Hirsh at the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter at 234-3459 for an application. The deadline for applications to be received is May 25. ***(PR)***

Words are never enough to thank you for all that you do.
Happy Mother's Day
Love you mom
STORE HOURS:
Garapan Express: Open daily from 7am to 6pm
Chalan Pale Arnold Road: Open daily from 6:30am to 6pm
Chalan Pale Arnold Road 235-8577 • Garapan Express 233-8577
Office Tel: 235-8761 • Fax: 235-8760 • Email: admin@jcamcd.com

Blossoms
FLORAL SHOP
unlimited expressions for lasting impressions...
To the world you might just be one person,
but to one person you might just be the world!
A man may work from dusk to dawn, but a woman's work is never done.
Stop by and see our selections of floral arrangements, goody baskets, chocolates, Bath and Body products, balloons and other great gifts.
Love on Mother's Day!
ORDER WHILE SUPPLIES LAST
J.E.T. HOLDINGS COMPANY
Located at J.E.T. Building, Gualo Rai • P.O. Box 500070 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
Shop Hours: Monday to Saturday 8:30am - 6:00pm | Sunday 8:30am - 1:00pm
Tel. No.: 235-2276/7372 • Fax: 670-235-7271

LIFETIME

From Page 1

a news briefing yesterday at the Fiesta Resort lobby with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, said this 40-year contract with IHG will result in the birth of another international hotel brand on Saipan and is evidence of the Tan family's commitment to be in the CNMI for many years.

"My family moved to Guam 48 years ago and in the CNMI 38 years ago. …My family and I are deeply rooted on Saipan. …I don't consider myself just an investor. Yes, we do business here and definitely a part of the business community but this is where I raised my daughter and everything I do is really for the community," Tan said.

"Forty years is a lifetime commitment and I hope I am still around. TanHoldings is here to stay and the Tan family will continue to be around for many years or decades so we are very happy that we are able to continue forward with operating this property. …It has been our desire to help upgrade the CNMI as a destination and we can only do that if we upgrade the standard of the hotel," he added.

According to Tan, IHG is one of the leaders in hotel management and hotel brand. They manage 5,000 hotels in 100 countries that include the Intercon Hotel, Holiday Inn, and Voco.

"This is very important, not just for us operating the hotel but more important for the CNMI tourism industry because we would like to see more international brands come in. This is the right thing to do so we can continue to upgrade the visitor experience," he said.

"IHG is known for their very high standards and if you don't keep that level of standard, you cannot keep the name. IHG has very strong presence in all of our three source markets China, Japan and Korea. They are the largest operator in China, they have very good partnership with ANA Airlines in Japan and has a big sales presence in Korea," he added.

A total of $25 million has been allotted for the renovation of the hotel. One of the plans is to add 116 rooms by 2025 on top of the current 416 rooms.

In October last year, IHG announced that they have taken over the management of Fiesta Resort Guam, which has 318 rooms and will be rebranded to Crowne Plaza in 2021. The combined 850 room count is considered the biggest conversion signing for IHG Australia, Japan, and Pacific Island regions.

The Tan family also made a commitment to allot $3.5 million to a Community Benefit Fund that will go to projects that will benefit the CNMI. According to Alex Sablan, who is a TanHoldings executive and president of the Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp., $500,000 will go to developing homesteads in the CNMI, $2 million will go to Garapan Revitalization Project, and additional $1 million will go to be used for the rehabilitation of all basketball courts in the CNMI.

"We feel that the central part of the community is a gathering place and that is a basketball court, whether to play sports or have a function," he said.

Torres said that this agreement is what the CNMI needs right now as it faces many challenges. "This extension of 40 years its more than just another commitment as this is a lifetime commitment. While we are struggling with furloughs and low economic activities, here comes a family-owned company who lives here and is making a commitment," he said. "This will set a new standard for the CNMI, that despite all challenges, this kind of commitment sets a standard for all business opportunities They have a vision here in the Marianas and this is a good example of a good business proposal that the government will support," he added

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

PSS

From Page 1

it's Teacher's Appreciation Week and Mother's Day," Ada said.

Ada explained that PSS still owes its locally funded employees two pay periods, 9 and 10. However, PSS is expecting to pay off this remaining amount once it receives the money allotted to PSS under the CARES Act.

"For pay period 8, 9, and 10, [employees] were not paid. For pay period 8, they were given 80 hours of pay, for pay period 9, they worked 72 hours, and for pay period 10, they worked 16 hours. The money we received from the government was only enough to cover pay period 8 but the Education Stabilization Fund that we are expected to receive will cover pay period 9 and 10," Ada said.

Ada thanked Gov. Ralph DLG Torres for his help and for finding a way to pay PSS employees even if it was for just one payroll.

"The governor was really stuck with the funding because he had to put all the money the government had toward combating the spread of COVID-19 like quarantine and all of that. That required a lot of money. That's all been taken care of and…he was able to gather as much of the government's leftover money…and transfer funds to help us. He knew he was going to allocate money to pay teachers but it was just a matter of time," Ada said. "He really is helping and supporting public education. He never lost sight of that, he knew it, it was just a matter of time and collections."

Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig said yesterday that $1.3 million was transferred to the Public School System on Wednesday to cover the last two pay periods.

Atalig added that the administration remains willing to work with all members of the Board of Education on solutions moving forward as agreed to last January before the pandemic.

"We continue to work with [Board of Education] chair Janice Tenorio and vice chair Herman Atalig on ways to keep PSS funded appropriately. The COVID-19 pandemic has hit the world hard, especially here in the Marianas where our budget is at an unprecedented low level that has affected every employee and every agency. Working together is what will get us through this," said Atalig.

Despite the shortage of funds, Torres said he worked with the Department of Finance to leverage existing local resources to cover PSS salaries. "I know it has been very difficult with our overall CNMI budget shortfall because of COVID-19, but I have been working with [Atalig] on a transfer of funds to pay for PSS salaries as best we can, especially for our teachers. Despite the ongoing disagreements with certain members on the Board of Education, we recently transferred $500,000 to cover the remaining 30% of pay period 8 and $1.3 million to cover their last two pay periods," said Torres.

Torres assured that he and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios continue to keep PSS, especially teachers, in their thoughts. "While the disagreements with the Board of Education have been contentious about funding PSS at a time when our overall budget has drastically gone down, Lt. Gov. Palacios and I have always thought about our teachers. We never made the disagreements about them. This is about curtailing administrative and operational costs within the central PSS administration and working together on ensuring a viable funding stream in the long run," said Torres.

LOAN

From Page 1

longer necessary due to the recent allocation of $1.3 million from the central government to PSS and the $22.3 million it expects to get from the CARES Act.

"We're not going for the loan. I spoke with our legal counsel [yesterday] and he and I agreed that the loan is not necessary anymore. If we don't have to, then let's not," he said.

Ada said it's in the best interest of PSS not to take out a $5 million loan so that PSS doesn't go into more debt than it already is. "I don't want to put PSS in more debt than it has to be," he said.

PSS teachers were paid yesterday for 80 hours or pay period 8. Pay period 9 of 72 hours, and pay period 10 of 16 hours is expected to be paid off in the next week or so since PSS is expecting to receive their allocation from the CARES Act in the next week.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, PSS was officially awarded over $20 million from the CARES Act last Tuesday and is expected to receive the funds as soon as next week.

Ada said that all required documents and the application have been submitted and received by the U.S. Department of Education and PSS is expected to receive the funding sometime next week.

Last Wednesday, Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig transferred $1.3 million to PSS to cover the last two pay periods. However, Ada said the money was only enough to cover one pay period.

The MPLT loan was PSS and the Board of Education's "quickest solution" to getting over 800 locally funded PSS staff paid since they have not received their salaries since April. The loan was also expected to cover PSS' debt to their vendors and the summer pay for locally funded teachers.

ROTA

From Page 1

tective Equipment with Rota and Tinian.

According to Muña, it's important to have enough equipment to provide protection for health care workers and front-liners. "Having these PPEs will definitely help our health care workers to get protection. …You never want to have to decide whether to use or re-use a PPE," said Muña. "Having adequate supplies is essential to our staff [or] providing health care services to our patients."

Muña added that when you provide services, you should make sure that you protect the staff and everyone else that are involved to avoid the transmission of the virus to other people. "We're getting ready to pack them up and send them, so that they [Rota and Tinian] can [use] them," she said.

Todd Hoose, a member of the COVID-19 response team for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, added that the CNMI was able to obtain the supplies and equipment from the United States and multiple other countries. At this point, the CNMI will be able to share those resources, he added. "With the success they've had with the materials that are here, they may be able to assist possibly other Pacific Islands and certainly the other islands in the Northern Marianas," said Hoose.

He added that the supplies and materials will help other islands get back to their feet and make a difference in improving the safety, not just for CNMI, but "a number of our partners and our friends in the Western Pacific."

Also, despite the problems with shipping, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios is still thankful to those who were involved in the logistics, like government agencies and the COVID-19 Task Force, and all the airlines that were able to come through and give the CNMI enough supplies.

Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services Commissioner Dennis Mendiola is also thankful, saying PPEs "are vital to our operation in ensuring the safety of our personnel to ensure that they do not contract COVID-19."

Mendiola said the PPEs will provide comfort and protection to first responders and personnel during emergency response.

His sentiments were also echoed by Department of Public Safety Commissioner Robert A. Guerrero and Department of Corrections Commissioner Wally Villagomez.

To date, the CNMI has had 15 positive COVID-19 cases, with one active case, 12 recoveries, and two deaths.

COVID-19 in Guam

The Department of Public Health and Social Services tested 90 individuals for COVID-19 last May 6. Two tested positive through DPHSS and 88 tested negative.

To date, Guam has had 151 confirmed COVID-19 positive cases, with five deaths and 123 released from isolation. When a patient is released from isolation, he or she is no longer considered infectious.

SPACE FOR RENT
Located at Middle Road corner Quarter Master, Chalan Laulau
Office – 3,200 sq. ft.
Warehouse – 6,000 sq. ft.
LP GAS WUSHIN
Since1983 Committed to Safety Excellence
Please call us at 322-8733/7415 or send email to wushin2@pticom.com for more inquiry.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(3) Beautician – Knowledgeable in giving Hair Cut, Hair Colors, Hair High-lights.

(1) Graphic Designer / Artist – Bachelors Degree in Fine Arts. Minimum of 1 yr. experience as Graphic Designer / Artist.

Submit Applications To:
Saipan Apparel Printing LLC.
Ground Floor, Afetna Building,
Beach Road, San Antonio,
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.# 670-235-1680

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) Sewing Machine Operator – High School Diploma and atleast 3 months work experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience.

(2) Beautician – Skilled in all areas of beauty treatments such as hair cut, hair colors / highlights / rebonding; waxing, manicure & pedicure,acrylic nails. Willing to work flexible time.

Submit Applications To:
Pam Pacific Enterprises Corp.
dba Pena House Boutique and Salon
Ground Floor, Sablan Building,
Beach Road, Chalan Kanoa,
Saipan,MP 96950
Tel. (670)235-7270

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(6) Trash Collector - Atleast High School graduate. With valid driver's license. Needs to be physically fit and willing to work flexible time and must be hardworking.

(2) Security Guard - Wide security experience in access systems, patrolling, investigative procedures, incident report writing, and customer service. Willing to work flexible time.

(3) Househelper - Experienced in household chores. Willing to work flexible time.

Submit Applications To:
AYD SERVICES, INC.
Tel.# 235-7011
AYD Compound, Beach Road, San Antonio,
Saipan, MP 96950

CUC's non-revenue water loss up 70.04% in March

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Camacho

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s non-revenue water loss on Saipan went up again to as high as 70.04% in March from February's 61.83%.

In his report to the CUC board of directors last Friday, CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho disclosed that they detected leaks in the power system in As Matuis, Kagman, Dandan, Airport Road, and Chalan Kiya. Camacho said operations and engineering are working together to identify leaks in those areas for repairs.

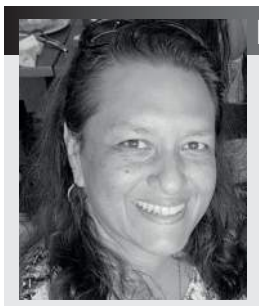
In January, Camacho reported that, for the first time in CUC's history, it reduced its non-revenue water loss to below 50% last December. That number was at 53.6% a month before, in November, Camacho said.

In his report to the board last week, Camacho said that, as of Jan. 16, 2019, the Saipan water system was serving 24-hour water to customers. He said CUC continues to provide 24-hour water service to all tank service areas on the island and was only interrupted at the end of the March at the As Matuis Tank Service Area due to low tank level.

Camacho said wells that went offline in the As Matuis Tank Service Area have been returned back to service to maintain the 24 hours supply.

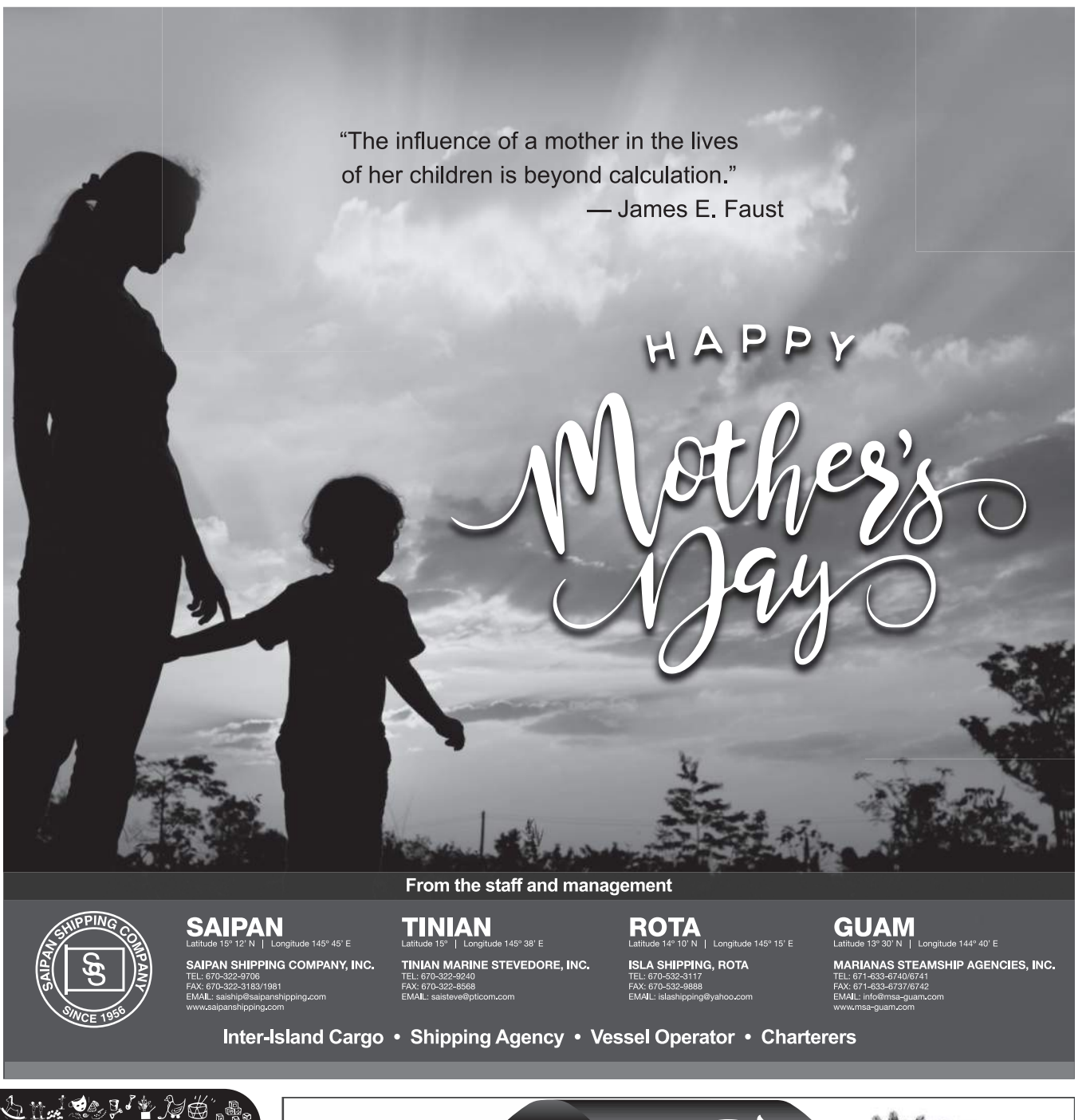
To decrease the level of perfluorooctanoic acid/ perflourooctane sulfonates contamination at the Kannat Tabla Tank Service Area, two additional water wells were turned offline last Jan. 31, Camacho said.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 50th birthday and advance happy Mother's Day to the Golden Queen, Susan Riva Babauta! Sending you best wishes for success, health and good fortune today and in the years to come. Greetings come from your families and friends!



From the staff and management

SAIPAN SHIPPING COMPANY SINCE 1956

SAIPAN Latitude 15° 12' N | Longitude 145° 45' E
SAIPAN SHIPPING COMPANY, INC.
TEL: 670-322-9706
FAX: 670-322-3183/1981
EMAIL: saiship@saipanshipping.com
www.saipanshipping.com

TINIAN Latitude 15° | Longitude 145° 38' E
TINIAN MARINE STEVEDORE, INC.
TEL: 670-322-9240
FAX: 670-322-8568
EMAIL: saisteve@pticom.com

ROTA Latitude 14° 10' N | Longitude 145° 15' E
ISLA SHIPPING, ROTA
TEL: 670-532-3117
FAX: 670-532-9888
EMAIL: islashipping@yahoo.com

GUAM Latitude 13° 30' N | Longitude 144° 40' E
MARIANAS STEAMSHIP AGENCIES, INC.
TEL: 671-633-6740/6741
FAX: 671-633-6737/6742
EMAIL: info@msa-guam.com
www.msa-guam.com

Inter-Island Cargo • Shipping Agency • Vessel Operator • Charterers

Supermoms in the front line

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Editor's Note: Saipan Tribune *reached out to the Department of Public Safety and Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services for this story but there was no response as of press time.*

One handles airport security. Another helps bring in goods and supplies the community needs. Another transports those goods, while another one uses them to keep people safe and healthy.

These superwomen are also supermoms, helping the community keep it together while also taking care of their families. As the world celebrates Mother's Day this Sunday, May 10, here are four moms who, although not in the medical fields, may still be considered to be in the front lines of giving everyone a sense of calm in this "new normal" of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Going on five years now working at the Commonwealth Ports Authority, **Wynessa Sonoda Jack** has become quite good at multitasking. She is a Police Officer I, Ports Police Department Timekeeper and Security Access Controller. She describes her work prior

Commonwealth Ports Authority police officer Wynessa Sonoda Jack with her children. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

to COVID-19 in dispassionate terms: Maintaining compliance with Code of Federal Regulation 1542 that are applicable and mandated under Saipan International Airport's security plan and to serve and protect the community as well as the traveling public.

During this pandemic, she was reassigned to assist with the COVID-19 community-based testing at the Saipan airport. As a Ports Police officer, her role is to enforce traffic control, crowd control and conduct security checkpoints for entry and exits while ensuring the safety of the community during the testing procedures as regulated by Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. guidelines.

That need to balance the demands of her new role in airport security and being a front-liner, while also raising a 6-year-old and a 1-year-old child is quite challenging and Jack knows one can never make up for any lost time she may have with her children.

"No amount of money, toys, or gifts could make up for the moments you've missed because they're only little once and you can never reverse time, even if you wanted to. The best way I cope with making up for the time I lost would be giving them the time I have before I start my day and the time I have left after every day, no matter how exhausted or consumed I am with work," she said.

"The one value I would like to pass on to my kids would be being selfless. As a law enforcement officer…the public looks up to us and we are held to a higher standards, [such] that they tend to forget that we are humans, we make mistakes, we fail, but we get back up and stay in the fight. We risk everything every day when we walk out the door to carry out our duties but without a question in mind because we love what we do," she added.

To other mothers who are also raising a family and getting through this pandemic, Jack urges them to remember that they are important. "You are loved, you are needed, and you are a hero, no matter what your occupation is. You are a mother first before all else and that is the best title you could ever own," she said.

Fifteen years of working at the Federal Emergency Management Agency has made Staging Unit Leader and Ordering Leader **Traci Knox** an exceptional "doer" and team

Federal Emergency Management Agency Staging Unit Leader and Ordering Leader Traci Knox was part of the response team during Typhoon Soudelor and Super Typhoon Yutu and now the COVID-19 pandemic. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

player in times of natural disasters and calamities. She was part of the response team in the CNMI after Typhoon Soudelor and Super Typhoon Yutu. Knox and her five-member team was in charge of setting up, staging, or receiving commodities from different parts of the world.

She admits that this was only possible because of the support she has with her parents, when they take care of her son when she gets deployed. "My son is 26 years old now but when he was a child, he had a clear idea of my work in FEMA. Whenever my phone rings, deployment orders usually follow and he is like "Mom! It's Superwoman Time! Where are you going?" she said. "I am so glad that I have my parents as a support system all these years. After 28 years in the service. My dad is a retired Navy after 28 years so they know the importance of working to help other people and families. … My son would help me pack my suitcase and I always reassured him every time I get deployed," she added.

Knox, who is from Riverbanks, California, said that deployment time varies—sometimes three days to a month; the longest time she can get deployed is 50 to 52 weeks. "I would always FaceTime with my son, say I love you to each other [and], even though he is grown now, he is my baby and only child I have. …I hope that my son learns the value of hard work, dedication, commitment, and the importance of being a team player in the work that I do," she said.

Her son actually approached her two months ago to ask her how she would feel if he tries to join FEMA. "I immediately said it is an awesome job because you can help in so many ways…and help your country. …I told him I always have a great experience, especially being deployed to Saipan, because I have met so many families here," she added.

Knox is set to leave Saipan on Saturday as her work is already done and she hopes to come back, this time not for another calamity but for a vacation. "When I do, I want to explore Tinian because I love the beaches and the water there is amazing. Everybody is always welcoming with open arms. Whether on Saipan, Tinian or Rota, these places are on my vacation list that I will always come back to," she said.

As a special assistant for Public Transportation of the Commonwealth Office of

Alfreda P. Camacho, special assistant for Public Transportation of the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority, says that her son, Jakey, is a big inspiration in her public service career. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Transit Authority, **Alfreda P. Camacho** ensures that the goals and objectives for the agency are achieved while also safeguarding its sustainability through grant funds from the Department of Transportation: Federal Transit Administration.

Right now, COTA's role in the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force response efforts is to fulfill any and all transportation needs. That includes transporting passengers arriving at the Saipan airport to the designated quarantine facility site, transporting "Persons Under Investigation" from either the Commonwealth Health Center or home to the isolation facility, and transporting any individual who has recovered and needs to be released back home.

When Camacho relocated back to Saipan in 2009, she immediately landed in public service, from the Department of Commerce to COTA. She had her 4-year-old son Jakey in tow then. That means he has been a big part of Camacho's journey as a public servant.

"Since he was just a little boy, he has been my 'partner' at all work outreach and awareness events, accompanying me to work meetings and spending some weekends at the office when grant season would come around for the program," she said. "Every typhoon activation, Jakey knew I needed to pack his duffel bag for grandma and grandpa's house because mommy has to report for work."

"Over the last 10 years, he has gotten used to my role during these natural disasters that when COTA was activated under the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, Jakey already knew the 'drill,'" she said.

If there is anything that Camacho wants to pass on to Jakey, it would be what her parents taught her and her siblings: to always respect and show compassion to others, being kind and understanding, always doing what is right even if it is not popular, staying humble and remembering that when you lead with passion and integrity, meaningful outcomes will be the fruit of your labor.

Camacho is engaged to another front-liner, a Commonwealth Ports Authority K9 police officer, and this helps her do her job without regret or issues. "…When he and I are off duty, we try our best to go on family walks with Jakey and our dogs, play catch, bump the volleyball around with him, or swim at the beach to get a little exercise in. …Eating dinner together as a family is a priority. This is where we catch up with one another other, discuss current events, and family matters," she said.

"Being a mother is a 25/8 job and our motherly instinct is to nurture and protect our children. Just as we naturally do this for our children, we also emulate this in our professional careers, especially now more than ever since the onset of this pandemic. Let us continue to do what we as mothers do best—serve and protect those who we are called to serve in our CNMI community so that we can prevent this pandemic from reaching our children when we come home after every shift to be their mothers," she added.

Shiela Figueroa, a nurse unit manager of the OB/GYN well baby nursery department, started her career at the Commonwealth Health Center in 2007. During the pandemic, she is also called to be a nurse.

Shiela Figueroa has been working as nurse at the Commonwealth Health Center since 2007. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"I am sometimes assigned to do nasal pharyngeal swabbing at the [mass testing site] but, most of the time, my work is at Kanoa Resort to monitor patients," she said. That includes taking patients' vital signs, nasal pharyngeal swabbing, collecting samples for testing, and monitoring for signs and symptoms of COVID-19.

She also gets assigned to the Pacific Islands Club Saipan quarantine site, where they receive returning residents for quarantine and do PCR testing, collecting samples for testing and monitoring for any signs and symptoms of COVID-19.

Being a mom with these kinds of duties, Figueroa is glad that she has support both from her co-workers and children. "I'm so grateful that I have a supportive Chief Nursing Officer, Renea Raho, and Deputy CNO Evita Kawai as they make sure we have enough time for our family during our days off. If we are too busy and not able to take a day off, front-liners like me do get eight hours per day to work but get enough time to rest and sleep when we get home and be ready for the next day," she said.

"I'm also lucky to have all-grown up teenagers who knows all household chores and can even cook. Teaching them how to do household chores, like cooking and cleaning, are what makes my responsibility as a mother light," she added. She believes this also bodes well for her children becoming independent adults in the future.

As a nurse, Figueroa knows that being compassionate and understanding of patients is the nature of her profession. "Patients in sudden isolation feel anxious and helpless, so being there for them makes a difference and mental health counselors at the site help a lot. ...Our professional values as a nurse is an extension of our personal values. …We are here to not only take care of ourselves but especially others," she said.

Her advice to other mothers is to make sure to explain to their children why they have to do what they're doing, so that they could protect themselves and the community from the virus, especially the *man'amko*.

She also urges parents, mothers, and pregnant women to always eat healthy, exercise, get enough rest, and to always drink their vitamins to help strengthen their immune system. "Now that we have more time to spend with our family, we should use it wisely and utilize this time to strengthen our bonds with our children, spouse, and significant other," she added.

US govt asks to reset Ataligs' jury trial once more

The U.S. government has asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to reset once more the jury trial of Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig and his girlfriend, Evelyn Atalig, as the prosecution's key witness will undergo a three-week training.

Assistant U.S. attorney Eric S. O'Malley asked to move the trial date to either June 23, 2020, or around July 28, 2020. He said the government prefers the earlier date if safety related to COVID-19 and the circumstances permit.

He said their key witness, investigator Travis Hurst from the Office of the Public Auditor, has been accepted into a three-week training program with the U.S. Secret Service beginning July 6, 2020.

O'Malley said the Ataligs have indicated that they do not oppose resetting the trial to either date.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona recently reset the trial to July 7, 2020.

The trial has already been reset several times for many reasons; this recent one is due to the COVID-19 pandemic. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

$27.9M for NMI schools; Kilili urges Torres to fully fund PSS

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Marianas will be receiving $27,940,945 for schools from the CARES Act Education Stabilization Fund, according to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) yesterday.

The U.S. Department of Education sent yesterday the funding allocation for the Marianas and other insular areas to Sablan, who chairs the House Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education. The department set aside 20% of the Marianas money, $5.6 million, in a Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund. The remaining 80%, $22.4 million, is available directly to the Public School System.

In a letter to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres yesterday, Sablan urged the governor use his special set-aside, too, for PSS, "so all furloughed PSS teachers and staff can be paid in full what they are owed for this school year and so the 10,000 students of PSS have the greatest possible opportunity to continue learning during the coronavirus crisis."

Sablan has been pressing the Department of Education and the White House to make the CARES Act money available to Marianas schools quickly. He delayed leaving Washington until yesterday, when he was certain the department was releasing the money needed to pay furloughed PSS teachers.

Now Sablan wants to make sure the set-aside the Trump administration gave Torres completely plugs the hole in the PSS budget.

The Commonwealth budgeted $37.7 million for PSS in the fiscal year 2020 Appropriations Act. Only $11.9 million has been conveyed to the school system, however, leaving a balance of $25.8 million.

"The CARES Act funding of $22.4 million for PSS covers most of that balance, but there is still a remaining $3.4 million needed to meet your commitment to teachers, staff, and students," Sablan wrote Torres. "I urge you to use the full $5.6 million you now have for emergency education relief not only to make up the shortfall of $3.4 million still owed to PSS, but, with the balance of $2.2 million, to help cover the unbudgeted costs of providing online learning, while schools throughout the Marianas are closed by the pandemic." ***(PR)***

May all the love you gave to us come back
to you a hundredfold on this special day!
happy
Mother's
Day
from the staff and management of
Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

GUANGDONG HARDWARE
Never satisfied until you are

NEW ARRIVAL
LAVATORY FAUCET, MIRROR, GARDEN TOOLS, G.I. PIPES, SQUARE TUBES, SHORING JACK PIPE, ROOFING TIN & MANY MORE
ABS, CPVC, PVC, CONDUIT PIPLES & FITTINGS ARE ALL MADE IN USA
ELECTRICAL TOOLS, WATER HEATER & WINDOWS

NEW ARRIVAL
Furniture

Make a Difference for Your House!

NEW ARRIVALS!
VALSPAR PAINT
It's the suitable paint for the island climate. Makes your paint last for a long time!

LED LIGHTS
- Less money, 50% energy saving!
- More stable, bright, and fashionable!
- More longer and environmental protection!

Your Smart Choice!

G60 Rebar is Available Now!
CHEAPEST DEALER OF MAJOR CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL ON ISLAND!

P.O. BOX 501640, SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 288-2288/2289/6688
FAX: 288-4488
E-mail:guangdong_hardware@163.com
BUSINESS HOURS:
Monday to Saturday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
DISCOVER MasterCard. VISA

Being a mom during a pandemic

To ensure that she keeps her son safe, Annverose Naanep, who is a sandwich artist at Subway, lets him stay with his grandmother, Naanep's mom, a situation that she describes as "really hard, because it scares me when I go check up on him because I'm out in the public. I'm working for him, but it's hard because sometimes I can't see him because of this pandemic." KRIZEL TUAZON

Laundry attendant Clemente Castro is finding it hard to be torn between the need to work and the fear of being infected. "It's really hard because even though there's this virus, this pandemic, I still have to work for my family." KRIZEL TUAZON

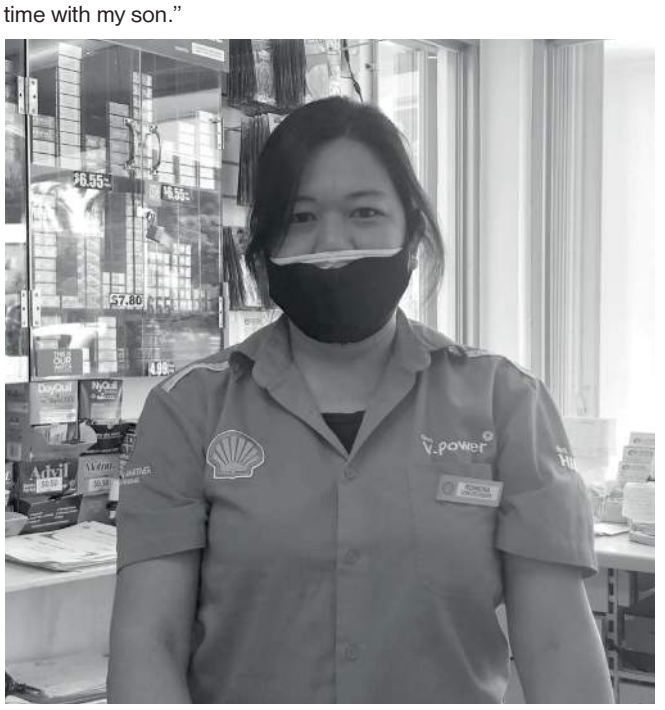
Joanna Muña, who is a cashier/sales associate at I Love Saipan, has four children and two grandchildren. "It's hard for me because I don't get to see them sometimes because they're kids, they're young. I'm usually out in the public, here working and I don't want to get them sick." KRIZEL TUAZON

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"Working as a mom during this pandemic is hard," said Marie Aldan, who is with Sales & Marketing at StayWell Insurance. "The daycare is closed, but you can't take your child to every grocery store [since] it's hard to put a mask on a toddler! I, of course, fear that my son will catch something, which is something every mom is afraid of. However, the positive side is I am able to spend more time with my son."

Laundry attendant Marilou Pulido says, "Two things: We can bond now but it's also hard because, as a mother, any moment the sickness can happen to me or my husband and we're usually out for work. It scares me as well because they can get sick if ever and it always worries me." KRIZEL TUAZON

Melba Camacho, who is a cashier at a Mobil Gas Station, has mixed feelings about the situation. "There's a negative side, which is worrying if your kids may get the virus [from] me, but there's also a positive side to it, which is being with my family– I can eat with them at the table now and bond!" KRIZEL TUAZON



Rowena Abendan, who is a cashier and gas attendant at a Shell Gas Station, said, "It's hard for us moms because some of us have reduced hours and lower income from work and sometimes it's not enough for the family, especially when there's things we have to pay. But [were] still surviving and happy. As long as we're healthy, we'll be okay!" KRIZEL TUAZON

Sabina Perena, a cashier at Tenda Supermarket, describes working in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic as "hard because, even in this pandemic, I have to work for my family. We still have expenses to pay; rent, power, food, etc., but I love my family so I have to keep going." KRIZEL TUAZON

"It's scary because we want to take care of ourselves and our kids but we have to work. Even though three of my children are not here, I want to know that they're safe as well as their family. And it's even hard now because if something ever happens, we can't all be together because of this virus," says Yolly Postrato, who is a sales associate at I Love Saipan. KRIZEL TUAZON

Q&A: Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation

The CNMI Department of Labor received a number of questions regarding eligibility, dates, and amount of assistance. To ensure the public has the same information, here are the common questions and answers. Note that this is a new federal program that is still being finalized. Until the program is finalized, some information may change or be supplemented. The following is based on federal guidance and information available to the Labor Department as of May 6, 2020.

1. What is PUA?

PUA stands for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance. It is a federal program that provides temporary benefits to covered individuals whose employment has been affected as a direct result of COVID-19. The program is available from Feb. 2, 2020 to Dec. 26, 2020. Individuals who qualify may receive up to $345 per week, minus deductions for partial earnings, child support and income tax withholdings. Individuals earning over $345 in a given week will be disqualified from benefits for that week.

2. What is FPUC?

FPUC stands for Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation. It is a federal program that supplements the PUA program. Individuals who qualify for PUA and receive at least $1 of PUA benefits will also receive an additional $600 supplemental payment under FPUC. This assistance is available from March 29, 2020 to July 31, 2020. You do not have to file a separate application for FPUC.

3. How/When can I apply?

PUA and PUC applications and operations have not yet been finalized. The CNMI Department of Labor is working very closely with our federal partners to launch this new federal program as soon as possible. When the application is available, the CNMI Department of Labor will notify the community through government websites, news, and other media outlets.

When the application in available, the CNMI Department of Labor plans to take applications online, telephonically, and in-person (drive-through/drop off). Due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, the CNMI Department of Labor encourages individuals to file online.

4. What documents do I need to prepare?

Typically, unemployment insurance requires proof of employment, income, and reason for separation from employment. To streamline the application process, this requirement has changed.

Applicants need only submit the initial application form with copies of **two** forms of ID and social security card. If Applicants want payments by direct deposit, they should also submit a copy of a voided check.

Applicants will "self-certify" the necessary information by signing the application form, under penalty of perjury. Any misrepresentation on the form will be criminally prosecuted for fraud. While you do not need to submit these documents with your initial application, you should have employment records available to help you fill out the application form. Also, the CNMI Department of Labor may require such documents at a later time.

5. Am I eligible?

While we can answer general questions, DOL cannot definitively determine an individual's eligibility until they file an application with all the necessary information. We strongly urge all individuals to file an application for PUA.

6. What are the eligibility requirements?

Individuals must be partially or totally unemployed (i.e., terminated, furloughed, laid off, or reduced hours), unable or unavailable to work because of at least one of the following COVID-19 related reasons:

- Diagnosed with COVID-19 or, is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and seeking medical diagnosis;
- A member of the household has been diagnosed with COVID-19;
- Providing care for a family member or household member who has been diagnosed with COVID-19;
- A child or other person in the household for which the individual has primary caregiving responsibility is unable to attend school, or another facility, that is closed as a direct result of the COVID-19 and such school or facility is required for the individual to work;
- Unable to reach the place of employment because of a quarantine;
- Unable to reach the place of employment because the individual has been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine due to COVID-19 concerns;
- Was scheduled to commence employment and does not have a job, or is unable to reach the job, as a direct result of the COVID-19 public health emergency;
- The individual has become the breadwinner or major support for a household because the head of the household has died as a direct result of COVID-19;
- The individual has to quit his or her job as a direct result of COVID-19;
- The individual's place of employment is closed as a direct result of the COVID-19 public health emergency; or
- The individual is an independent contractor who is employed (totally or partially) or is unable or unable to work because the COVID-19 public health emergency has severely limited his or her ability to continue performing the customary job.

7. My work hours have been reduced. Can I collect PUA?

If you are working fewer hours due to COVID-19 and it has resulted in a loss of income, you may be eligible for reduced or partial benefits so long as your weekly earnings do not surpass $345.

8. If an employee refuses to work due to a general fear of contracting the virus, is he or she eligible to receive PUA benefits?

No. A general fear of contracting the virus is not one of the COVID-19 related reasons listed above.

9. Can I quit my job to be eligible for PUA benefits?

To avail of this program, individuals must be "able and available" to work. Individuals who quit their job to access unemployment benefits will be considered to have committed fraud. Further, individuals who decline to return to work when recalled or turn work down will likely not satisfy the "able and available" standard.

10. Are FAS nationals (Palau, FSM, and RMI) eligible for PUA benefits?

FAS nationals who meet the eligibility requirements above may be eligible for PUA benefits. Individuals should apply with the state or territory where he or she was working at the time their employment was affected by COVID-19.

11. Are CWs eligible for PUA benefits?

This question was submitted to the U.S. Department of Labor in the beginning of April. We are awaiting official response from the U.S. Department of Labor.

If you have general questions regarding the PUA and FPUC programs, you may call any of the phone numbers listed below between the hours of 8am and 12pm, Monday to Friday, effective April 30, 2020. Due to high volume of calls, your call may not get connected. If you cannot get through the line, try again or email info@puamarianas.com. Do not send personal or sensitive information via email as it is not secure.

CNMI DOL Phone Numbers for PUA / FPUC Questions

670-989-9090
670-989-9084
670-989-9081
670-989-9089
670-989-9083
670-989-9080

Note that these numbers are subject to change and may be reassigned to certain PUA/FPUC functions after implementation, such as processing appeals or reporting fraud. For the latest contact information and guidance, visit the website at marianaslabor.net or at governor.gov.mp. ***(PR)***

Robert Tenorio Torres, (F0197)
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758 CK
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No.: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Petitioner (Pro Bono)

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Adoption of: Abigail Jane Yu Minor Child
By: Michael Satorre Garcia Petitioner
) FCD-AD-CIVIL ACTION NO. 20-0100
) NOTICE OF HEARING ON THE PETITION FOR ADOPTION

NOTICE is hereby given that a hearing on the Petition for Adoption in the above-entitled matter is set for July 29, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in Marianas Business Plaza Courtroom before Associate Judge Kim-Tenorio, at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, *Guma' Hustisia*, Civic Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 13 day of April, 2020.

/s/
By: Patrick V. Diaz,
Deputy Clerk of Court

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v- AGRIPINA I. GIODA and MICHAEL J. GIODA, DEFENDANTS
) CIVIL ACTION NO. 18-0103

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC, the Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Post Office Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Dated April 22, 2020 by order of the Court:

/s/ Clerk of Court

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950, Gualo Rai Center, Saipan
TEL. NO. 664-8300 • FAX NO. 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

As of May 8, 2020

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Vertical Aviation, LLC	03/11/2020 SPI-2020-X-043	Helipad, Hangar, & Office Facility	Puerto Rico, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Approved* 04/21/2020
2 Pacific Subsea Saipan, Inc.	04/28/2020 SPI-2020-X-045	Drydock	Lower Base, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Approved* 05/02/2020
3. Bridge Investment Group, LLC	04/28/2020 TPI-2020-X-08	Tinian Diamond Casino Employee Dormitory	San Jose, Tinian	Ports & Industrial	Approved* 04/30/2020

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXX, Issue No. 91

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The right—and wrong—way to cope with the N95 mask shortage

If pre-pandemic Americans didn't know what N95 masks were, they certainly do now. Like gowns, face shields and gloves, they are a key piece of personal protective equipment that safeguards health care workers in the fight against COVID-19.

In short supply, N95 masks have become a topic of debate on reuse: Can hospitals and health care facilities safely clean them to prolong their use, even for multiple shifts?

Northfield, Ill.-based Medline Industries has pitched to the White House a way to decontaminate N95 masks. That would be laudable, if it weren't for the chemical Medline wants to use to clean the masks: ethylene oxide, a known carcinogen, the Chicago Tribune's Michael Hawthorne reports. Researchers say the compound can damage the brain, and can raise the risk of leukemia, breast cancer and lymphomas at extremely low levels of exposure.

Medline uses ethylene oxide to sterilize medical instruments at its plant in Waukegan, Ill. That plant recently underwent an overhaul to reduce emissions of the compound into surrounding neighborhoods.

The Food and Drug Administration would have to approve use of ethylene oxide to decontaminate N95 masks. Here's why the agency should say no: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and 3M, a leading maker of masks, have all said it's a bad idea. Masks cleaned with ethylene oxide could still have residual amounts of the chemical that the wearer could breathe in via off-gassing, 3M said in an April technical bulletin.

Health care workers are putting themselves at risk in hospitals, nursing homes and testing sites where sick COVID-19 patients are concentrated. They deserve the best armor we can give them.

Is there an alternative cleaning solution? Yes, and its FDA-approved methodology is already in use. In the parking lot of a medical device supplier in Waukegan, an Ohio biochemical research firm, Battelle, has been using vaporized hydrogen peroxide to clean up to 80,000 masks a day for reuse by health care personnel. The FDA backed usage of the process within the past month.

Medline is looking for the same emergency approval that the FDA gave Battelle. Yes, N95 masks are in short supply, and decontaminating masks to keep doctors, nurses and other health care workers properly equipped makes sense. But a remedy that could put them at risk is no remedy.

Richard Peltier, a health sciences professor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, told Hawthorne, "If I were faced with a choice in wearing a mask that just came out of an (ethylene oxide) sterilizer or a surgical mask that doesn't meet N95 standards, I'd take the surgical mask."

It's a fair bet that most health care workers would make the same choice. So to the FDA: Say no to Medline's request for emergency approval. There are safer alternatives to clean and reuse N95 masks.

(c) 2020 *Chicago Tribune*

DINER
I can't hear her! What did she say?
What did you say?
What did you say?
I measured and they are only five feet from here! Cut my bill in half or I'll report this to the law!!
©2020 GAMBLE KING FEATURES SYNDICATE
THE TROUBLE WITH SIX FEET APART GUIDELINES WHEN RESTAURANTS REOPEN?

Sweden refused to impose a lockdown. Here's why

By KARIN OLOFSDOTTER
Los Angeles Times

Karin Olofsdotter is Sweden's ambassador to the United States.

Why is everybody talking about Sweden?

Lately, my country has caught the attention of the media in the United States for an unexpected reason. As the entire world struggles to manage the spread of the novel coronavirus, Sweden's response to the pandemic has been singled out as "radical," "lax" and "controversial" because Sweden has not imposed a broad general lockdown, an approach taken by many other countries.

Sweden is known as a country with a strong welfare model, including public health care for all, and has among the world's highest life expectancies. Some might find it difficult to reconcile this image with our approach to containing COVID-19. It's time to set the record straight on what is going on in Sweden.

Sweden shares the same goals as all other countries—to save lives and protect public health. We are also facing the same challenges as other countries; namely, the scale and speed of the virus' spread and the pressure on the national health system. The objective is to reduce the pace of the coronavirus' spread and to "flatten the curve" so that large numbers of people do not become ill at the same time.

Sweden is tackling the coronavirus pandemic through both legally enforced measures and recommendations. Like most other countries, we are promoting social distancing, protecting vulnerable people and at-risk groups, carrying out testing and strengthening our health system to cope with the pandemic.

The government has banned visits to care homes for the elderly and made changes to the social security system to make it easier for people with COVID-19 symptoms to take sick leave. Public gatherings of more than 50 people are banned. Secondary schools and university and college classes have moved to online instruction, and people are encouraged to work from home.

Sweden's measures differ from other countries in a few significant ways. We are not shutting down schools for younger children or day care facilities. We have no regulation that forces citizens to remain in their homes. And we have not ordered the closure of any businesses, though businesses like restaurants are required to operate with social distancing rules.

Swedish laws on communicable diseases are mostly based on voluntary measures and on individual responsibility. Sweden's coronavirus strategy builds upon those principles. It's a strategy that makes sense for Sweden, but we are humble enough to admit that it may make less sense elsewhere, because all societies are different.

The key here is the high level of trust in Swedish society. According to the World Values Survey, there is a high level of interpersonal trust between Swedes, and there is also a high level of trust in public authorities. The authorities also have a high level of trust in citizens to heed their advice.

The use of recommendations in public health efforts—rather than mandates—is a common strategy in Sweden. One example of this is child immunizations. In contrast to the United States, where all 50 states mandate immunizations for children in order to enroll in school (although there are exemptions given), Sweden's child vaccination program is based on recommendations from the authorities and is not a legal requirement. Yet more than 97% of Swedish children are vaccinated in accordance with the recommended immunization schedule.

It is too early to draw any firm conclusions about the effectiveness of the measures taken in Sweden, but they are continuously reassessed by our public health experts.

It is deeply saddening that the virus has hit care homes for the elderly hard in Sweden. One of the main priorities now is to strengthen protections for those living in care homes. More personal protective equipment and online education for staff are being provided, testing has increased and more than 1,000 inspections will be carried out by the Health and Social Care Inspectorate.

It is also too early to compare infection rates and death tolls internationally, since countries differ in how they count coronavirus-related deaths. Countries differ in terms of population density, age structure and housing culture—and many other factors that affect the spread of the virus. Countries are also in different stages of the pandemic, and in different phases of maintaining or relaxing measures.

Eventually the world will need to agree on how to register COVID-19 deaths, how to detect unregistered cases and how to evaluate the general health effects of the coronavirus on the entire population. It will be important to learn from all of this to prepare ourselves for potential future outbreaks of similar viruses.

In the meantime, life is not carrying on as normal in Sweden. Most people are staying at home voluntarily. Domestic train travel, a major means of transportation, has fallen drastically, and almost all domestic flights have been canceled. Many businesses have closed. Unemployment is expected to rise dramatically. In response, the government has approved crisis packages to mitigate the financial impact of the pandemic on Swedish businesses and workers.

The coronavirus is not a disease that can be stopped or eradicated completely, at least not until an effective vaccine has been produced. Sweden's strategy may not provide all the answers, but we believe the combination of voluntary and mandated measures is not only more sustainable for Sweden than a lockdown strategy but will strengthen the resilience of Swedish society to fight this virus in the long run.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Señora coronavirus

Our daily interaction has forcibly been changed by the deadly coronavirus contagion. Goodwill was once easily passed via a simple handshake. No longer! Otherwise you'd contract lethal COVID-19.

Reportedly, more than 60,000 have died from it. Appalling the strength of pathogens that has changed the usual "*hafa adai*" to "*taya `dai.*" That it is fatal is more the reason to be on guard.

Moreover, the origin of the lethal virus is Wuhan, China. It brought the entire global village to its knees. Meanwhile, several countries are contemplating suing China for the destruction and death of the fatal virus.

Medical report has it that fluid fills the bronchioles in the lungs that blocks air passage until the person expires. Once mucus sets in, the use of ventilators or respirators is basically useless. We may not have it as yet but it isn't an excuse to be complacent about it either.

Lañg

A profound sense of condolences to the family of the late governor Froilan C. Tenorio on his untimely passing recently.

Had the pleasure to serve under his administration doing PR work. An engineer by education and profession, he navigated the finite discipline with fully considered political disposition, successfully.

Si yuus maase` Governor Tenorio for all your services and may your journey home be a blessed and peaceful one. JR and family.

Maanee

Troubling the reduction of the local economy that simultaneously brought down funds for basic needs. It's a tough financial reality that leaves the elected elite disoriented.

There's the obvious need for more funds given current obligations that bloat involuntarily each break of dawn. This as the means contracts equally quickly. It spells rough times ahead.

That elected officials have begun discussion on this score is a tale that they are troubled by the huge reduction in fiscal resources. Herein lies the challenge to move issues forward handicapped by the lack of funds to pay for it.

The drop in resources is global, meaning everybody is derailed by a huge reduction in funds to defray basic needs. We're not exempted but should ably navigate the "scarcity season" equally capably, too.

Debate

Heard the redundant query: How do we increase NMI revenue? It's a good query to avoid serious discussion on how do we pare down unhinged expenses?

It's all about prudent management of scarce fiscal resources. The answer is reliant upon management and investments. Any idea what other forms of investments may be headed our way?

The community should have money moving around businesses and villagers. Without this reality things would be quite protracted where money and jobs turn scarce at every turn.

Moreover, policymakers must present realistic ideas that could be translated into improving the quality of family life. Have you one in your back pocket to present or is "*biba*" still stuck in it?

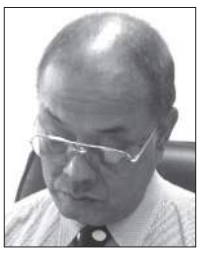
We have to have investments in this community in order to generate revenues and jobs. Without it we're destined to rearranging the chairs in a sunken canoe downstairs while singing the usual adolescent forte, *"que sera."*

Drought

It must be the prolonged drought season that has kept many of us inside or under awnings and tree shades.

I tried to rationalize my way through it but not when my forehead is dripping steadily with sweat. I'd wait until about 5:30pm before taking my daily walk. Regardless, there's a lot of heat or humidity in the air even as the sun quietly disappears in the horizon.

It's even hotter when the wallet turns woefully slim. *Ai, natting maanee*!



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

Issues

Rep. Sheila Babauta quizzed nominees to the Marpi integrated resort project of the sustainability of the plan. None had a realistic and substantive answer. It was basically intramural reply to deeply rooted queries.

To illustrate a point: the planned facility comprises 2,000 rooms. It would require two employees per room for a total of 4,000 employees. Do we have the numbers locally to meet the needs of the facility? Humiliating the intramural answers.

Equally important is the lack of ground water up north. It means sacrificing the needs of villagers in As Matuis, San Roque, and Tanapag to feed the planned facility. The only way out is the use of a highly expensive method of water filtration known as desalination. A lot of it is wasted in the process, e.g., dump seven gallons for every 10 gallons that you desalinate.

Admirable Ms. Babauta's intellectual acuity, pointing out issues most of her colleagues simply failed to see. It's called vision, yeah? Notice, I'm not talking about a B&W television set either.

Happy Mother's Day to all mothers

By DAVID M. APATANG
Special to the Saipan Tribune

David M. Apatang is the mayor of Saipan.

Today's challenges have altered the way we reach out to our moms. Social distancing and staying at home would compel us to celebrate Mother's Day in a very different and new way this year. While we would rather join our moms this Mother's Day with great big hugs and kisses, protecting each other must come first.

To all mothers, Happy Mother's Day. We will continue to give you thanks for all your kindness and all that you have sacrificed and given us. We will continue praying that the pandemic would soon pass and we will once again feel the warmth of your presence and comfort that you bring us. The love you give us has no substitute and nothing on this earth could replace it. Your hugs and voice consoles us to be brave, to stand for what you teach us, to be a role model to others exactly like you have always been to us. We will honor you every day for your graciousness and loving spirit. This Mother's Day, we amplify that honor to all on earth.

To all mothers on active duty in the Armed Forces, Reserve, and National Guard, thank you for your services. We wish you the best Mother's Day and that you are all safe.

A salute to the ingenuity of American nurses

By ANGELA SAILOR
The Heritage Foundation

Angela Sailor is vice president of the Edwin J. Feulner Institute at The Heritage Foundation.

Americans can't seem to agree about much these days, but one thing crosses all political persuasions: gratitude for our health care professionals, especially in a time of pandemic. So it is particularly fitting, as we struggle with the challenges of COVID-19, to pause and observe National Nurses Week (May 6-12).

The ingenuity and contributions of American nurses in health care and technology have long been a beacon of light. Nurses believe, in the words of President George H.W. Bush, that "No problem of human making is too great to be overcome by human ingenuity, human energy and the untiring hope of the human spirit." This week, we salute American nurses for the significant and notable inventions they have made to improve the health care of our nation and the world.

On this 38th anniversary of National Nurses Week, we honor and salute the quintessential leadership of renowned Clarissa "Clara" Harlowe Barton, founder of the American Red Cross. Clara Barton, the "Lady in Charge," advanced the practice of nursing during the Civil War, and led care for Union hospitals. We also honor unsung heroes such as Bessie Griffin, Adda May Allen, Anita Dorr and Sharon Rogone.

Griffin, aka "Wonder Woman," invented the electric self-feeding device in the 1940s to enable paralyzed World War II veterans to eat independently. The ingenuity of Allen, a nurse for Columbia Hospital in Washington, D.C., made it easier for moms, and hospitals, to feed babies. She created a disposable liner for baby bottles that simplified bottle cleanings and made bottle drinking safer for babies.

Anita Dorr was a solutionist. While working in the emergency room, she became concerned about the length of time it took to gather essential medical equipment during an emergency. Instead of complaining, Dorr worked to develop a prototype for the Emergency Nursing Crisis Cart, commonly called the crash cart. The crash cart made it easier and quicker for doctors and nurses to access their medical equipment during a time of emergency.

Today the crash cart is used all over the world. Even though Dorr did not receive a patent for the crash cart, she is recognized as the inventor. She also co-founded the Emergency Nurses Association.

Sharon Rogone, a nurse in the neonatal intensive care unit for a hospital in San Bernardino, Calif., developed a comfortable nylon mask to protect the eyes of premature babies from the harsh ultraviolet lights. Her invention is known as the Bili-Bonnet. Rogone's company, Small Beginnings, has since created other inventions for preemies.

Florence Nightingale, the "Lady with the Lamp," is credited with revolutionizing medicine and patient care, elevating the status of the nursing profession. Many have paved the way for innovation in health care. Extraordinary examples include Linda Richards, the first nurse to earn a nursing diploma in the United States, and James Derham, a slave who worked as a nurse to purchase his freedom and later became the first African American physician.

All of these front-line defenders put their lives to provide healing and comfort for countless Americans, just as today's nurses do.

The Bureau of Labor and Statistics cites registered nursing as among the top occupations for job growth through 2026. The Bureau of Labor began projecting the need for an additional 203,700 new RNs in 2016. The demand will grow each year through 2026 with the creation of new positions, and the retirement of nurses.

Nursing students who are preparing to graduate deserve honor and recognition. As new graduates enter the nursing profession, they will immediately witness how their veteran peers balance the responsibilities of handling the obstacles of a pandemic, providing extraordinary care for patients and advocating for the needs of their profession.

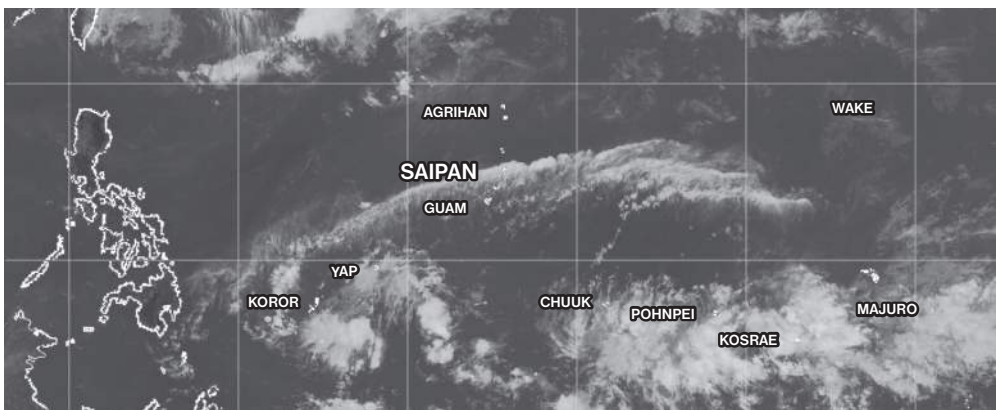
Americans can enjoy peace of mind knowing that new and veteran nurses are steadfast and committed. Like Clara Barton, they too declare to face danger, but never fear it. And like soldiers in battle who stand and fight, they will stand and care for those in need. Today, more than ever, let's thank our selfless, hard-working nurses.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. east winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. east winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
88° 77°	90° 78°	88° 78°	88° 78°	89° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:56 AM, THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Moderate east to east-southeast trade winds and isolated showers prevail this morning. Upper-level clouds are streaming overhead from the west-southwest. Buoys and altimetry indicate combined seas are between 4 and 6 feet composed of trade-wind swell and wind waves.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				**GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN**			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	1, 4, 6	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	1, 4, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	89° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	81° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Sunny	66° / 54°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	79° / 52°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Honolulu	Sunny	82° / 70°
London	Partly Cloudy	75° / 54°
Los Angeles	Sunny	86° / 63°
Manila	Thunderstorms	97° / 82°
Melbourne	Rain	57° / 45°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	80° / 74°
New York	Showers	56° / 39°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	73° / 57°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	73° / 52°
Busan	Rain	66° / 61°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	77° / 54°
Salem	Showers	73° / 45°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	67° / 51°
Seoul	Rain	66° / 55°
Tokyo	Cloudy	70° / 63°
Washington, DC	Showers	61° / 38°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:50 AM	6:36 PM
Saturday	5:50 AM	6:36 PM
Sunday	5:49 AM	6:37 PM
Monday	5:49 AM	6:37 PM
Tuesday	5:49 AM	6:37 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	6:21 AM	7:30 PM
Saturday	-	7:13 AM	8:33 PM
Sunday	-	8:08 AM	9:34 PM
Monday	-	9:05 AM	10:33 PM
Tuesday	-	10:02 AM	11:26 PM

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:06 AM	HIGH TIDE	0.92
7:30 AM	LOW TIDE	2.17
2:33 PM	HIGH TIDE	-0.24
9:14 PM	LOW TIDE	2.13

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.
E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

GOVERNMENT RESOURCE LISTING AS OF APRIL 16, 2020

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
- ***Cashier & Customer Service***
  Monday - Friday
  8:00 AM - 1:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 664-4282
  Pay bills online at www.cucgov.org or via phone by calling toll free 1-(855)-729-2282

Department of Finance
- ***Division of Revenue & Taxation***
  CASHIER ONLY
  Monday - Friday
  7:30 AM - 4:30 PM
  Tel: (670) 664-1000
- ***Division of Customs Services***
  - ***Airport:*** OPEN DAILY
    8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
  - ***Seaport:*** Monday - Friday
    8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
  - ***Chalan Kanoa Post Office:***
    Monday - Friday 7:30 AM - 4:30 PM
    Saturday 7:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Department of Public Lands
- CASHIER ONLY
  Monday - Thursday
  9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
  Tel: (670) 234-3751/52/53/54

Saipan Zoning Office
- *Available via phone only*
  Monday - Thursday
  7:30 AM - 11:30 AM
  Tel: (670) 234-9661/2/3
  Email: yubert.alepuyo@zoning.gov.mp
  Call or email for more information

Department of Public Works
- ***Solid Waste Management Division***
  - ***Lower Base Transfer Station & Marpi Landfill***
    Open all week except Wednesday
    7:30 AM - 1:00 PM
    Tel: (670) 322-2745

CNMI State Medicaid Agency
- Eligibility staff via phone only
  Tuesday - Thursday from 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 664-4880/4882
  Accepting applications and supporting documents via drop-box at Medicaid Office. Medicaid application & renewal/ redetermination forms must be original. Applications/forms available for pick up next to the drop-box or online at: www.medicaid.cnmi.mp

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
- *Available via phone or email only on Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays from*
  9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 322-6537/38
  Email: maryann@ovrgov.net

Office of the Attorney General
- ***Civil & Criminal Divisions***
  Monday - Friday
  8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 237-7500/7600

Office of the Public Defender
- Monday - Friday
  9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
  Tel: (670) 234-6503

SOCIAL DISTANCING TO BE IMPLEMENTED AT ALL OFFICES

GOVERNOR'S COVID-19 TASK FORCE HOTLINE TEL: (670) 287-0046
FOLLOW US @GOVERNORCNMI FOR THE LATEST NEWS & UPDATES

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

GOVERNMENT RESOURCE LISTING AS OF APRIL 16, 2020

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs

- ***Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)***
  Accepting Calls From Existing Customers Only
  Tel: (670) 287-1475
- ***Division of Youth Services (DYS) On-Call***
  Saipan: (670) 285-2780 / 287-2781 / 287-1773
  Tinian: (670) 287-3268
  Rota: (670) 287-2553
- ***Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)***
  For inquiries regarding parent eligibility requirements for CCDF Program:
  Tel: (670) 783-8571 / (670) 783-8572
  Email: dccajguerrero@gmail.com / ccdf.jrosario@gmail.com
- ***Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture (CCAC)***
  For Recovery Arts Grant Application Submissions. Grant Guidelines are available at http://www.cnmiartscouncil.org
  Tel.: (670) 287-4585
  Email: parkeryobei@gmail.com
- ***Historic Preservation Office (HPO)***
  For Processing of Federal 106 Consultations Call
  Tel: (670) 789-1986
  Email: rchong.cnmihpo@gmail.com
- ***Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP)***
  Benefit Pick Up: Monday - Friday
  8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

  Application Pick Up: Monday - Friday
  8:00 AM - 6:00 PM

  Application Submission:
  Anytime via Drop-Box

  Application Inquiries:
  Tel: (670) 237-2801/2802

  To download the NAP application and other forms go to dcca.gov.mp
  Email: support@cnminap.gov.mp

SOCIAL DISTANCING TO BE IMPLEMENTED AT ALL OFFICES

GOVERNOR'S COVID-19 TASK FORCE HOTLINE TEL: (670) 287-0046
FOLLOW US @GOVERNORCNMI FOR THE LATEST NEWS & UPDATES

Business

Pepoy's Restacafe does take-out, delivery

For more information, to pre-order, or for delivery inquiries, call 234-8894 and 483-8895

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Pepoy's Restacafe is located in Susupe across the intersection leading to the U.S. Post Office.

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

There's not that many restaurants south of Saipan compared to Garapan. So keeping open during the time of COVID-19 felt like a sense of duty for Pepoy's Restacafe owner Marilou Malasarte.

"We closed for a few days after the government announced regulations that need to be followed to stop the spread of the coronavirus. But management decided to reopen after a couple of days to help feed the hungry stomachs of our…loyal customers. We also feel that we have this social responsibility to respond to their need for food," she said.

Merienda or snacks are readily available. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Desserts galore are also sold at Pepoy's Restacafe.

Like all restaurants and food establishments in the CNMI, Pepoy's Restacafe was also negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. "The impact of losing our dine-in operations has really affected our bottom line, considering that Pepoy's just opened last year. But management is committed to continue our day-to-day operation by doing take-out," she said.

Prices remain the same at Pepoy's Restacafe, with one-choice meals costing $3.75, two-choice $4.75, and three-choice $7.75. Their usual Filipino menu remains the same, with dishes like dinuguan, binagoongang baboy, pork steak, beefsteak, pinakbet, and kare kare among the bestsellers.

Malasarte reminded take-out customers to observe social distancing measures of being 6 feet apart and wearing a mask when ordering food inside the restaurant. "Social distancing is a mandate that each individual needs to follow and it makes sense. This is one way to reduce the spread of the virus and to keep everyone safe," she said.

Aside from take-out, Pepoy's Restacafe also does deliveries for customers not willing to venture out.

Malasarte thanks loyal customers for their continued support of Pepoy's Restacafe. "Pepoy's is very thankful to all our customers. The management and staff will continue to work hard to provide the food that will satisfy your taste and customer service that follows government regulations during and after we overcome this pandemic," she said.

Pepoy's Restacafe is located in Susupe across the intersection leading to the U.S. Post Office. It is open from Monday to Saturday, 8am-12pm. For more information, to pre-order, or for delivery inquiries, call 234-8894 and 483-8895.

Taxis, bikes and sushi robots keep New Yorkers fed, protected

NEW YORK (AP)—Yellow cabs are lining up before sunrise at food distribution sites across the city.

Motorcyclists are buzzing over bridges, bags packed with masks and gowns.

Even sushi-making robots are pitching in, freeing up acclaimed chefs to deliver meals to hospitals.

With their fellow New Yorkers in need, an army of unlikely couriers is distributing food and supplies in the coronavirus hotspot. They're keeping families fed amid a surge in unemployment that has nearly doubled the city's food-insecure population to about 2 million. They're ensuring doctors have face shields and N95 masks after hospital stockpiles ran out. They're lifting spirits for those affected most by the pandemic that has killed at least 13,000 New Yorkers.

"At this time, we need to help each other," taxi driver Adel Jelassi said. "There's a crisis, and I want New York to come back."

Jelassi and thousands of other New York cabbies have helped provide more than 6.5 million meals since the state instituted stay-at-home measures in March.

The city-funded food delivery program, coordinated through New York's Taxi & Limousine Commission, is paying drivers $53 for each six-stop route they take on. Most are getting three routes per day, which is helping keep TLC drivers financially afloat with potential riders stuck at home.

Taxis are arriving as early as 4:30 a.m. at food distribution sites, hours before they open, to ensure they get a full day's worth of routes. Drivers take boxes packed with meals from the facilities to the front doors of families. All New Yorkers are eligible for the program and can sign up by calling 311.

"It's helping me to survive, feed my kids and pay my bills," Jelassi said. "And helping other people to get stuff at home."

Jelassi has been making his pickups at Basketball City in Manhattan's Lower East Side, a 70,000 square foot facility uniquely suited to the city's food program.

The seven-court gym is usually a practice space for NBA teams visiting the Knicks or Nets, and a home for adult leagues, camps and clinics for inner-city kids.

DOCOMO Pacific joins GNOC, Olympic hopefuls in inspiring community message

TAMUNING, Guam—DOCOMO Pacific, regional leader in innovation, telecommunications, and entertainment, in their capacity as official telecommunications sponsor of the Guam National Olympic Committee) and Team Guam for the Summer Olympic Games has released a series of video messages to inspire the community through this time of great change.

As an official sponsor, DOCOMO PACIFIC will be helping in the continuing development of Guam's athletes and their Olympic dreams through the Guam National Olympic Committee. Sports play a huge role in island's community. Sports, specifically the Olympic Games, unites the U.S. territory, fosters character, teaches respect for others, and calls Guamanians forward in the pursuit of excellence.

DOCOMO Pacific is honored to help Guam's athletes in their dream to compete in the Olympics and promote the island's culture as well. On March 24, 2020, the IOC made the official decision to delay the Summer Olympics in light of the global pandemic.

DOCOMO Pacific recently aired three TV commercials featuring three Olympic hopefuls, Jacinta Sumagaysay (weightlifting) and Mia-Lahnee and Rckaela Aquino (wrestling), as well as Guam's cultural ambassadors Inetnon Gefpå'Go. The key message is that their time to showcase their strength with the world is coming, but they will rise together as DOCOMO Pacific shows support by staying safe, staying healthy, and supporting each other.

"In making this announcement we are proud to have the athletes join us in recognizing our front liners. They have courageously shown strength and determination, so that we can continue to rise together," said DOCOMO Pacific president and CEO Roderick Boss.

DOCOMO Pacific's TV commercials can be viewed via the links below:

- Rise Together TVC - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QNfcFjTB_Ec
- Jacinta Sumagaysay - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DZH1kdNQ7Vw
- Aquino Sisters - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2W4D9RJeVY0
- Inetnon Gefpå'Go - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SJeKE0TeZNw
- 354292 gnocxdpac f4236c large 1588820693

DOCOMO Pacific is a wholly owned subsidiary of NTT DOCOMO, Japan's leading mobile operator. Headquartered in Tamuning, Guam, DOCOMO Pacific is the largest provider of personal, residential, enterprise connectivity and entertainment services in Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. As the four-time winner of Pika's Best of Guam, three-time winner of Best of The Pacific, DOCOMO Pacific is dedicated to bringing you and your family closer to the things that matter most. Get to know more about what makes us "Better Together" at www.docomopacific.com. ***(PR)***

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

S&P	DOW	NASDAQ
2,851.25	23,635.00	9,018.00
+17.75	+122.00	+66.00
+0.62%	+0.52%	+0.74%

EXCHANGE RATES
In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.56	Hong Kong Dollar	7.75	Russian Ruble	74.24
British Pound	0.81	Indian Rupee	75.40	Singapore Dollar	1.42
Canadian Dollar	1.41	Japanese Yen	106.30	South Korean Won	1,200.03
Chinese Yuan	6.99	Malaysian Ringgit	4.27	Swiss Franc	0.98
Euro	0.93	New Zealand Dollar	1.66	Taiwan Dollar	29.44
		Philippine Peso	49.57	Thailand Baht	32.44

Nation

‘If this thing boomerangs’: Second wave of infections feared

WASHINGTON (AP)—As Europe and the U.S. loosen their lockdowns against the coronavirus, health experts are expressing growing dread over what they say is an all-but-certain second wave of deaths and infections that could force governments to clamp back down.

“We’re risking a backslide that will be intolerable,” said Dr. Ian Lipkin of Columbia University’s Center for Infection and Immunity.

Elsewhere around the world, German authorities began drawing up plans in case of a resurgence of the virus. Experts in Italy urged intensified efforts to identify new victims and trace their contacts. And France, which hasn’t yet eased its lockdown, has already worked up a “re-confinement plan” in the event of a new wave.

“There will be a second wave, but the problem is to which extent. Is it a small wave or a big wave? It’s too early to say,” said Olivier Schwartz, head of the virus unit at France’s Pasteur Institute.

In the U.S., with about half of the states easing their shutdowns to get their economies restarted and cellphone data showing that people are becoming restless and increasingly leaving home, public health authorities are worried.

AP

Matt Pevzner, left, Tim Hosier, center, and Darryl Austin of the Great Barrington Highway Department paint over the crosswalk on Elm Street with brightly colored rainbow stripes, Wednesday, May 6, 2020 in Great Barrington, Mass.

Many states have not put in place the robust testing that experts believe is necessary to detect and contain new outbreaks. And many governors have pressed ahead before their states met one of the key benchmarks in the Trump administration’s guidelines for reopening -- a 14-day downward trajectory in new illnesses and infections.

“If we relax these measures without having the proper public health safeguards in place, we can expect many more cases and, unfortunately, more deaths,” said Josh Michaud, associate director of global health policy with the Kaiser Family Foundation in Washington.

Cases have continued to rise steadily in places such as Iowa and Missouri since the governors began reopening, while new infections have yo-yoed in Georgia, Tennessee and Texas.

Lipkin said he is most worried about two things: the reopening of bars, where people crowd together and lose their inhibitions, and large gatherings such as sporting events, concerts and plays. Preventing outbreaks will require aggressive contact tracing powered by armies of public health workers hundreds of thousands of people strong, which the U.S. doesn’t yet have, Lipkin said.

Worldwide the virus has infected more than 3.6 million people and killed over a quarter-million, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University that experts agree understates the dimensions of the disaster because of limited testing, differences in counting the dead and concealment by some governments.

The U.S. has recorded over 70,000 deaths and 1.2 million confirmed infections, while Europe has reported over 140,000 dead.

This week, the researchers behind a widely cited model from the University of Washington nearly doubled their projection of deaths in the U.S. to about 134,000 through early August, in large part because of the easing of state stay-at-home restrictions. Newly confirmed infections per day in the U.S. exceed 20,000, and deaths per day are running well over 1,000.

In hard-hit New York City, which has managed to bring down deaths dramatically even as confirmed infections continue to rise around the rest of the country, Mayor Bill de Blasio warned that some states may be reopening too quickly.

“My message to the rest of the country is learn from how much effort, how much discipline it took to finally bring these numbers down and follow the same path until you’re sure that it’s being beaten back,” he said on CNN, “or else if this thing boomerangs, you’re putting off any kind of restart or recovery a hell of a lot longer.”

A century ago, the Spanish flu epidemic’s second wave was far deadlier than its first, in part because authorities allowed mass gatherings from Philadelphia to San Francisco.

Coronavirus crisis exacts toll on people with disabilities

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Even before the coronavirus hit, cystic fibrosis meant a cold could put Jacob Hansen in the hospital for weeks. He relies on hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes to stay healthy because he also has cerebral palsy and can’t easily wash his hands from his wheelchair, but these days shelves are often bare.

For millions of disabled people and their families, the coronavirus crisis has piled on new difficulties and ramped up those that already existed. Many are immunocompromised and therefore more vulnerable to infection, but terrified of new coronavirus-era hospital guidelines they fear could put them at risk.

The leader of the U.N. said Wednesday the 1 billion people living with disabilities around the world have been among the hardest-hit by the virus. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called for them to have equal access to prevention and treatment of COVID-19 as the pandemic exposes and intensified global inequalities.

In the U.S., a number of states are moving toward reopening businesses shuttered by the virus, but many people with disabilities are staying behind closed doors, worried that more interaction could lead to a wave of new infections.

“It’s honestly kind of scary, with my disability even the common sniffles could put me in the hospital,” said Hansen, who usually likes volunteering at the library and rubbing shoulders with superheros at Comic-Con.

Hansen, 20, has done well with a new medication and was ready to start a grocery-store job near his Utah home before the virus hit, but the infection risk has put a stop to that for now. He used to have help from health-care workers with things like eating and bathing, but they had to stop coming after one had a potential exposure. The coronavirus test turned out to be negative, but they decided the risk was too high. Now Jodi Hansen does most of those things for her son, bringing drinks, scratching itches and bathing him, even though she has a bad shoulder and is working 40 hours a week from home as a transition coordinator for the Utah Parent Center.

“I’ve definitely had one full panic attack,” said Jodi Hansen. “I look at my eyes in the morning. I’ve got bad under-eye circles. I just don’t sleep well at all.”

Oklahoma mom Lisa DeBolt felt like she had to make a similar decision in caring for her son Chandler, who also has cerebral palsy. While her husband works in facilities management for a church, she’s helping with things like medication, hygiene and a feeding pump.

“We just have such a small little family to rely on right now,” she said.

Both moms worry not only about how the virus might affect their sons but how a hospital stay might unfold.

They live in states where advocates say people with disabilities may end up at the back of the line for scarce resources like ventilators if hospitals become overwhelmed. Advocacy groups have filed complaints in several states, including Kansas, Tennessee, Washington state and Oklahoma over government guidelines they say wrongly disadvantage people with disabilities.

US sees 1st detained immigrant death from coronavirus

SAN DIEGO (AP)—A 57-year-old man in immigration custody died Wednesday from complications related to the coronavirus, authorities said, marking the first reported death from the virus among about 30,000 people in immigration custody.

The detainee had been held at the Otay Mesa Detention Center in San Diego and hospitalized since late April, said Craig Sturak, a spokesman for the San Diego County Health & Human Services Agency.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement would neither confirm nor deny the death. CoreCivic Inc., the private company that operates the detention center, didn’t respond to a request for comment.

A family representative identified the deceased as Carlos Ernesto Escobar, a diabetic who left El Salvador with his mother and sisters in 1980 and lived in the Los Angeles area. Alex Guzman of the Otay Mesa Detention Resistance advocacy group said he had been detained at the San Diego facility since January.

Escobar’s sisters told The San Diego Union-Tribune that he received a blood transfusion Tuesday but his body had already been too weakened by the virus.

“My brother was a one-of-a-kind,” Maribel Escobar told the newspaper.

Otay Mesa has been a hotbed for the spread of COVID-19, with nearly one of five detainees who have tested positive nationwide. As of Wednesday, 132 of ICE’s 705 positive cases were at the San Diego facility. Additionally, 10 of 39 ICE detention employees who have tested positive are at Otay Mesa.

Two guards at an immigration detention center in Monroe, Louisiana, died late last month from the coronavirus—Carl Lenard, 62, and Stanton Johnson, 51. Until Wednesday, no detainees had been reported dead.

A Justice Department attorney, Samuel Bettwy, said at a hearing on Monday that the San Diego detainee was on a ventilator at a hospital and his prognosis was not good. While the death came as no surprise, advocacy groups that have been pressing ICE to release detainees on bond swiftly criticized the agency.

“This tragic news is even more evidence that failing to act will result in cruel and needless death,” said Monika Langarica, an attorney at the American Civil Liberties Union of San Diego & Imperial Counties, which successfully sued to force the release of dozens of older and medically vulnerable detainees at Otay Mesa.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough that clear up in two to three weeks. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia and death.

Asia

Taiwan makes new push for inclusion in World Health Assembly

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwan's exclusion from the upcoming World Health Assembly would harm the global response to the coronavirus pandemic and cannot be excused by mere rules of procedure, the island's health minister said Wednesday.

Chen Shih-chung told international media at a news conference that global health officials "have not been honest and failed in their responsibilities," in an apparent reference to the U.N. World Health Organization that oversees the assembly.

"As I said since the beginning of the epidemic, no one is able to accurately predict how the situation will be," Chen said. "So the most important thing in the world pandemic is transparency. Each one has to share what they know about it."

Beijing claims Taiwan as part of its territory and has excluded it from the United Nations and its subsidiary organizations. China's growing influence in the U.N. has made officials wary of crossing it, even while the U.S. has withdrawn from or suspended funding for some of its organizations, including WHO, which it accuses of mishandling the coronavirus outbreak and displaying a pro-China bias.

Chen said he acknowledged that U.N. member states would have to approve Taiwan taking part at the World Health Assembly, to be held in in Geneva beginning on May 17.

However, he said there were questions as to whether WHO's "procedural justice was manipulated."

Chen Xu, China's ambassador to U.N. institutions in Geneva, said Wednesday that Taiwan had torpedoed its hopes of attending the health assembly, saying the "current local authority sticks to the secessionist policy" and has abandoned the one-China policy.

"They themselves closed the door," Chen told reporters in Geneva. "They destroyed a political basis for the involvement in WHO's activities."

Beijing's Communist leadership has increasingly shut Taiwan out of gatherings such as the World Health Assembly as part of a diplomatic and military drive to force Taiwan's independence-leaning President Tsai Ing-wen to recognize the self-governing island democracy as a part of China.

Beijing has threatened military force to bring Taiwan under its control and has been courting its handful of remaining diplomatic allies to isolate it internationally. That has drawn a strong response from Washington, with whom Taiwan has strong but unofficial ties and which is its main guarantor of security.

At the same time, Taiwan has been praised over its handling of the pandemic, despite being just a short flight from China where the virus was first detected late last year.

As of Wednesday, the island of more than 23 million people had recorded just 438 cases of COVID-19 and six deaths.

In Washington, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo told reporters that Taiwan should be allowed to take part in the World Health Assembly.

"I want to call upon all nations, including those in Europe, to support Taiwan's participation as an observer at the World Health Assembly and in other relevant United Nations venues. I also call upon WHO Director General Dr. Tedros to invite Taiwan to observe this month's WHA as he has the power to do and as his predecessors have done on multiple occasions," he said.

In Beijing, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying accused Tsai's government of seeking to use the pandemic for political gain.

"We are firmly opposed to this plot of the Taiwan authorities, and we also believe that such attempts will never succeed," Hua said at a daily news conference.

AP

In this image made from a video, Taiwan's Health Minister Chen Shih-chung speaks at a press conference in Taipei, Taiwan Wednesday, May 6, 2020.

Seoul reports panic buying in N. Korea amid economic woes

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—The coronavirus pandemic has likely taken a heavy toll on North Korea, forcing leader Kim Jong Un to avoid public activities and his people into panic buying for daily necessities, South Korea's spy agency told lawmakers Wednesday.

Although North Korea has taken intense quarantine measures, it maintains there are no domestic infections. Many outside experts are skeptical and warn that an epidemic could be dire because of the North's fragile health care system.

South Korea's National Intelligence Service told a closed-door parliamentary committee in Seoul that the pandemic is one of the reasons why Kim Jong Un has made much fewer public appearances this year, according to Kim Byung Kee, one of the lawmakers who attended the spy agency meeting.

As of Wednesday, Kim Jong Un appeared in public 17 times this year, compared with an average of 50 appearances in the same time period each year since he took power in late 2011, the lawmaker said, citing the NIS.

The NIS said it cannot rule out a virus outbreak in North Korea because traffic along the China-North Korea border was active before the North closed crossings in January to try to stop the spread of the virus, according to the lawmaker.

The NIS declined to confirm Kim's comments in line with its practice of not commenting on information it provides to lawmakers. Kim did not discuss how the NIS obtained its information.

Last Friday, Kim Jong Un ended his 20-day public absence when he appeared at a ceremony marking the completion of a fertilizer factory near Pyongyang. His time away triggered rumors about his health and worries about the future of his country.

The NIS repeated a South Korean government assessment that Kim remained in charge of state affairs even during his absence. His visit to the factory was aimed at showing his resolve to address public livelihood problems and inject people with confidence, Kim Byung Kee cited the NIS as saying.

The NIS said the virus pandemic is hurting North Korea's economy, mainly because of the border closure with China, its biggest trading partner and aid provider. China accounts for about 90% of North Korea's external trade flow.

The trade volume between North Korea and China in the first quarter of this year was $230 million, a 55% decline from the same period last year. In March, the bilateral trade volume suffered a 91% drop, the NIS was quoted as saying.

Virus outbreak in India market could cause cases to snowball

NEW DELHI (AP)—Health officials are rushing to contain a coronavirus outbreak in one of Asia's largest fruit and vegetable markets in the southern Indian city of Chennai.

So far, the market has been linked to more than 500 cases in several districts of Tamil Nadu state and adjacent Kerala state. Over 7,000 people with connections to the Koyambedu market are being traced and quarantined, said J. Radhakrishnan, the leader of Chennai's response to the coronavirus.

The market, which had remained open during India's six-week virus lockdown, is central to the region's food supply chain. The challenge for public health officials is to track the many traders, workers and shoppers who visited the market.

Experts said the virus cluster has exposed India's poor surveillance during the pandemic. They said the country's long denial of how prevalent the virus was resulted in people not taking precautions, and warned that the market cluster could result in cases in India snowballing.

Crucially, public health experts fear that many who visited the market will not inform authorities, fearing stigma or quarantines, and that some workers weren't registered. Radhakrishnan said the state government is aggressively testing in response and has conducted over 170,000 tests so far.

Dr. T. Sundararaman, a community medicine expert, said such large gatherings are exactly where virus clusters are likely to emerge. "If you don't look until it's too late ... it is a reasonable thing to suspect that clusters will emerge," he said.

With 2,008 cases, including 545 detected in the past two days, Chennai now accounts for half of Tamil Nadu's total of 4,058 cases. Of these, over a thousand were detected in the past 48 hours and many were linked to the market, the state government said. India had a total of almost 50,000 cases on Wednesday, with almost 3,000 new cases reported in the past day.

The neighborhood of Nerkandrum, where many residents work in the market complex, has been sealed. More than 100 people have tested positive in the area, which is about 3 kilometers (1.8 miles) from the Koyambedu market.

On April 24, after a spike in cases in the state, the government announced a four-day 'intensified' lockdown aimed at stricter social distancing. But this backfired as thousands rushed to the market to stock up on supplies. On April 27, the first case was detected in the market. It wasn't until Monday—one week later—that the market was eventually closed.

Authorities had feared that a sudden closure of the market would have led to food shortages in the state and instead tried to scale down operations. Some of the shops in the market will now be relocated to the city's suburbs so that the food supply chain isn't entirely severed, said officials.

Retired virologist and pediatrician Dr. T. Jacob John said the crowding in the market showed the lockdown "was leaky." He pointed to neighboring Kerala state's initiative of delivering groceries to people's homes, saying, "People have to live ... they have to buy food. The government should have anticipated the people's need."

World

Virus fears begin to haunt crowded slum in Argentine capital

AP
Men wearing face masks ride a motorcycle that hauls a trailer in the "Villa 31" neighborhood during a government-ordered lockdown to curb the spread of the new coronavirus in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Tuesday, May 5, 2020.

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—In the crowded slum of Villa 31, the sun plays hide and seek between buildings that jut and fall against the sky like blocks of Tetris.

Illegal cables carry electrity cross the streets like spiderwebs. Looking upward, the view can be obscured by a pillar of cement holding up one ot the Argentine capital's main thoroughfares.

Just below, Ramoma Medina lives in a 3 by 3 meter (10 by 10 foot) room with seven family members, including her disabled 12-year-old daughter with West syndrome, a severe type of epilepsy. It's not a place meant for spending a coronavirus quarantine as the pandemic spreads through the metropolis around them.

"I cry all night. I have panic attacks because I'm horrified to think that we could get sick," the 43-year-old woman said from the door of a home surrounded by rusting sheets of roofing, cardboard boxes and other debris. "My little girl is a patient at risk. If she gets infect, she could die."

With the traffic of the wealthier city rushing by above, Villa 31 is a symbol of Argentina's inequality. Some 45,000 people live in its 70 hectares (170 acres), between the capital's port and a main rail line.

Until this week, the area had been relatively spared by the pandemic, which began to spread in wealthier districts. Only 100 cases had been confirmed in the Villa by Monday. But officials worried that infections may quickly rip through the crowded district began to do widespread COVID-19 testing on Tuesday, and the total of confirmed cases had jumped to 198 by Wednesday, with many cases still outstanding.

Quarantine measures strictly enforced elsewhere in Buenos Aires seemed more haphazard here.

In the commercial heart of the district, the "Playón Oeste" a narrow street was crowded with small stands of venders offering vegetables, cereals, used clothes and, these days, face masks and alcohol.

Sitting behind a table offeirng spices and other products was Jacinto Asmat, a 75-year-old Peruvian, who acknowledged he was afraid the virus, but said he had no other way to make a living—a condition he shared with many around him.

The aroma of cheap carne asada drifted from nearby restaurants, where customers sat indoor, ignoring quarantine prohibitions, and it mixed with the exhaust of little motorcycle-trucks carrying merchandise. A hair salon was serving a couple of customers.

At dusk, youths gathered close to one of the neighborhoods main entrances, while music pounded nearby. A group of men drank beer, all ignoring orders to wear face masks and seeming unimpressed by the presence of police in bulletproof vests and carrying guns.

"We understand that isolation can't be the same as in the formal city," said Ignacio Curti, . who works in the social integration department of the Buenos Aires city givernment. "We know that the people live in a situation of greater vulnerability or with less space in their homes. It's sometimes advantageous and necessary for their families for them to get out."

The government had admitted that pandemic crackdown measures will be especially tough on the 36 percent of the population already considered to live in poverty, particularly informal workers and the self-employed.

Villa 31 began in the 1930s with the arrival of Italian immigrants, and gradually spread as people from elsewhere in Argentina and neighboring countries arrived. About half the residents now are from Uruguay, Peru or Bolivia.

Medina said that 15 of her neighbors have been confirmed to have COVID-19, but said officials until now had done little to stop the contageon.

"They never came to spray bleash, nothing. Nobody came here " Nobody offered me anything," she said, while trying unsuccessfully to coax water from a tap outside her home.

"Today we're resisting COVID-19 due to the ties we've formed, not thanks to the government of the city or state," Andrade said. "We hope that the future will be better, not only for the end of the cornavirus, for for all the social inequality."

Amid pandemic, Mexico to cut funds for women's shelters

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Amid an austerity drive to confront the coronavirus pandemic, Mexico's government is threatening to cut funds to counselling centers for indigenous women just as lockdowns are causing domestic violence reports to spike, activists said Wednesday.

Women's rights groups say the government will save little money by cutting funds for the Houses of Indigenous Women, which counsel and advocate for victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse, and coordinate programs for reproductive health. Each of the 30 houses receives only $25,000 to $40,000 in government funding per year.

The government's Indigenous Peoples Institute told the community-run centers in late April that their already-meager funding would be cut entirely. Activists have started a campaign to save the centers.

Rubicelia Cayetano, who helps run one of the centers in the southern state of Oaxaca, said they have seen an upsurge in domestic violence cases since the new coronavirus lock-down began in March.

"We are desperate and full of anguish, because this is such an important resource for saving the lives of women who face violence," she said of the center, which serves largely Mixe indigenous women. Only a couple of weeks ago a woman who had been beaten by her husband and whose life was at risk walked into her shelter with her 5-year-old son, she said.

The centers are needed "now more than ever, because violence against women has increased in this COVID-19 health emergency, because now they are living closer with their attackers," she said.

Figures from the government's National Security System show that emergency calls reporting domestic violence rose from 52,858 in February to 64,858 in March, while reports of violence against women rose by 20% in the same period. The number of women killed nationwide rose from 219 in February to 254 in March.

Amnesty International called those numbers—and the government cutback—"alarming," noting that women's shelters are nearing full capacity.

The Indigenous People's Institute did not respond to repeated requests for comment, but on Wednesday President Andrés Manuel López Obrador flatly denied that violence against women had increased, and countered reports of domestic violence with an emotional defense of the Mexican family.

"There was an assumption that if families spent more time at home there could be more domestic violence. But that did not necessarily happen because the same conditions don't apply everywhere in the world. In Mexico, there is a lot of brotherhood in the family," López Obrador said.

He didn't answer questions about the cutbacks, but almost suggested the problem was impossible in Mexican households, claiming: "The parameters of the rest of the world do not completely apply to Mexico if we want to measure domestic violence."

Clashes between Arabs, non-Arabs in Sudan province kill 30

CAIRO (AP)—Tribal clashes between Arabs and non-Arabs in Sudan's South Darfur province left at least 30 people dead and a dozen wounded, authorities said Wednesday.

The fighting poses a significant challenge to efforts by Sudan's transitional government to end decades-long rebellions in some areas of the country, including Darfur. Rebel groups from Darfur and other areas have for months engaged in talks with the transitional authorities to establish peace in Darfur and elsewhere in Sudan.

Adam Regal, a spokesman for a local organization that helps run refugee camps in Darfur, said the violence erupted when a group from the Falata tribe robbed sheepherders from the Arab Rizeigat tribe in the town of Rumali, leading to fierce clashes between the two tribes.

Regal shared graphic footage for dead bodies and wounded with blood-stained clothes.

Sudan is on a fragile path to democracy after a popular uprising led the military to overthrow longtime autocratic President Omar al-Bashir last year. A military-civilian government now rules the country. One if its key priorities has been ending the insurgencies in Sudan's far-flung provinces in order to slash military spending, which takes up much of the national budget.

Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok said in a statement that the fighting, which erupted Tuesday and continued Wednesday, has since subsided.

Local authorities have imposed a round-the-clock curfew in the area and deployed more troops to stabilize the situation in the region, said South Darfur's Gov. Hashim Mahmoud.

Mahmoud said a fact-finding investigation has been formed and would begin its work immediately after security forces control the situation.

Tensions between the Arab and non-Arab tribes date back to the Darfur conflict that began in 2003, when ethnic Africans rebelled, accusing the Arab-dominated Sudanese government of discrimination.

Al-Bashir's government in the capital Khartoum was accused of retaliating by arming local nomadic Arab tribes and organizing them into a militia known as the Janjaweed and unleashing them on civilian populations. The militias became notorious for massacres and rapes.

Off The Wall

Pint-sized driver surprises Utah trooper during traffic stop

OGDEN, Utah (AP)—A Utah Highway Patrol trooper got a pint-sized surprise when he pulled over a 5-year-old driver who was swerving so badly he thought the driver needed medical attention.

Trooper Rick Morgan said Adrian Zamarripa, who turns 6 next month, did not respond to his lights but pulled over when he hit his siren on Interstate 15 in Ogden on Monday.

"I approached the vehicle and I was expecting to find somebody who needed an ambulance or paramedics," Morgan said.

But when the window came down Morgan said it was pretty clear that it was "a very underaged driver who was behind the wheel."

The boy was sitting on the edge of his seat to reach the brake pedal, the trooper said.

When asked, Morgan said Adrian told him he was going to his sister's house—in California. The boy told another trooper that he wanted to buy a Lamborghini when he got there and then flashed open his wallet showing his cash to purchase his dream car: $3.

His parents were contacted and they came and took custody of their son and the vehicle.

Adrian has long dreamed of owning his own Lamborghini and spends hours watching videos of the luxury sports cars racing, his sister, Sidney Estrada, told the Deseret News.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Fowl play: Louisiana police search for 'aggressive chicken'

WALKER, La. (AP)—Police are searching for an "aggressive chicken" accused of engaging in fowl play at an Louisiana bank. The Walker Police Department responded to a complaint about the brazen animal Friday, the agency said in a social media post over the weekend. Witnesses told police the chicken had been spotted at the bank multiple times last week, approaching patrons at the ATM, chasing customers and even attempting to climb into cars in the drive-thru, according to the department's post. Officials said officers responded to the bank within a few minutes of the call, but found the pesky poultry had already escaped. The suspect remains on the loose and police advised residents to avoid confronting the animal, and instead call for help.

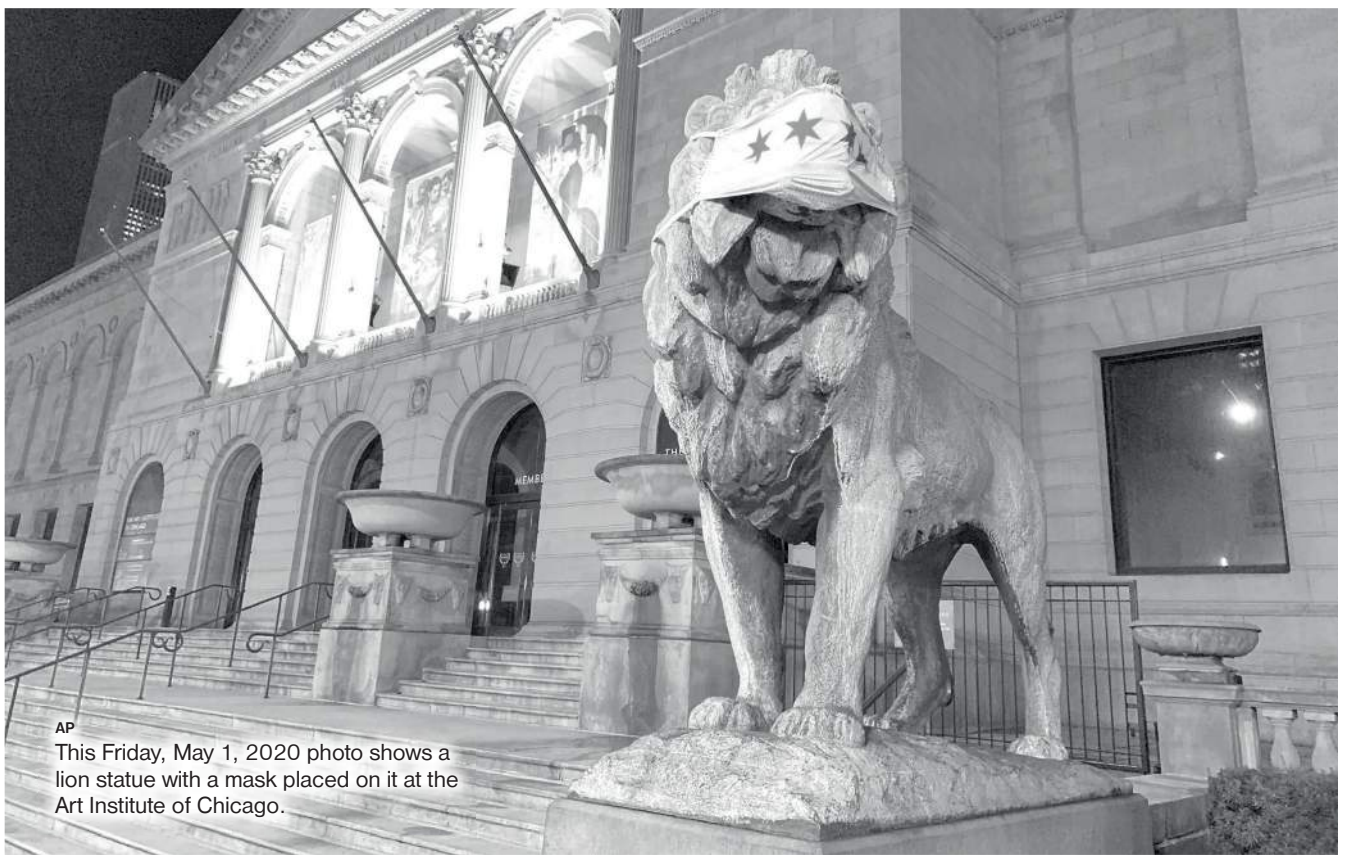
Police: Driver leads officers on chase riding Bobcat tractor

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP)—Police say they are searching for a suspect accused of leading officers on a slow-speed chase in Santa Fe while riding a Bobcat Tractor. KRQE-TV reports Santa Fe police pursued the alleged Bobcat bandit during an evening 5-mile-an-hour (8 kilometer-an-hour) quest through town earlier this month. Police say the driver repeatedly ignored commands to stop the stolen tractor and eventually plowed his way through barbed wire. Authorities say the driver fled into a field and disappeared. No arrests were made. Police say the case is still under investigation.

ONE EYED WILLA AP

In a photo provided by Joey Morvant, Emily Istre, of Lafayette, La., takes care April 21, 2020, of a one-eyed squirrel she named Willamina after her mother found the squirrel alone in a backyard. Istre also called the squirrel One Eyed Willa. The Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries took the squirrel from Istre on Thursday, April 23, and sent it to a wildlife rehabilitation specialist.

Mask stolen from lion statue outside Chicago's Art Institute



AP
This Friday, May 1, 2020 photo shows a lion statue with a mask placed on it at the Art Institute of Chicago.

CHICAGO (AP) — Somebody apparently needed a really big protective mask.

According to the Chicago Sun-Times, a mask adorning one of the iconic lion statues near the Michigan Avenue entrance to the Art Institute disappeared about 24 hours after it was applied.

Good news for the lion, though. By Friday afternoon, it got a new mask like the one the other lion nearby is wearing. But to make it tougher for thieves to steal them, the new mask and the one on the other lion are are now held on with cables that are a lot tougher to cut.

Police are investigating the theft and are looking for two men whom a security guard saw get out of a black Chevrolet, climb onto one of the statutes and cut the mask from the lion's head.

The large-scale masks were installed early Thursday to remind people to follow a statewide mandate that started Friday requiring people to wear masks in public places during the coronavirus crisis. The Picasso statue in nearby Daley Plaza is also wearing one.

The lions are used to wearing head gear. They sported Cubs caps in 2016 when the team won the World Series and Bears helmets twice before the team's two trips to the Super Bowl.

Man arrested trying to quarantine on private Disney island

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Florida deputies arrested a man who had been living out his quarantine on a shuttered Disney World island, telling authorities it felt like a "tropical paradise."

Orange County Sheriff's deputies found Richard McGuire on Disney's Discovery Island on Thursday. He said he'd been there since Monday or Tuesday and had planned to camp there for a week, according to an arrest report.

The 42-year-old said he didn't hear numerous deputies searching the private island for him on foot, by boat and by air because he was asleep in a building. He told the deputy he didn't know it was a restricted area, despite there being numerous "no trespassing" signs.

"Richard stated that he was unaware of that and that it looked like a tropical paradise," according to the arrest report.

Orange County Marine deputies on Bay Lake used a public address system to tell McGuire he was not allowed to be on the property, but he remained on the island, anyway, according to the arrest report.

A security representative for Disney said she saw McGuire using a company boat Thursday, noting that the area had several "no trespassing" signs and two closed gates. She asked the agency to press charges.

McGuire was arrested on a trespassing charge and taken to jail without incident. It was not immediately clear whether he had an attorney who could comment.

Previously called Treasure Island, Discovery Island had been the site of a zoological park before the island was closed to the public in 1999.

Mermaids returning to Montana tiki bar as it reopens

GREAT FALLS, Mont. (AP)—For patrons at a Montana tiki bar that has a back wall of a window into a motel swimming pool, it's typical to see mermaids in the water five nights a week.

So as the owner of the O'Haire Motor Inn and the Sip 'n Dip Lounge in Great Falls began preparing to reopen the bar after eights weeks of coronavirus-related restrictions, she wanted things to be as close to normal as possible—and that included the underwater entertainment.

Sandra Thares said she emailed regulators for guidance on whether mermaid shows could resume.

Gov. Steve Bullock's office said yes. The Cascade County health department said no, believing pools couldn't reopen until the third phase of the gradual reopening of the state's economy.

After some back-and-forth in which the governor's office noted hotel pools could reopen for registered guests with social distancing guidelines, the county OK'd the mermaid entertainment as long as only one mermaid was in the pool at a time, Thares said. There's usually two.

"We were not trying to step on anyone's toes, we were just trying to put people back to work," Thares said Wednesday.

The first mermaid was scheduled to return to work on Wednesday night. For now, the mermaids will get one four-hour shift per week.

"We're having the one tonight get in a few times with a mask on, just because we can," Thares said.

Science & Technology

Astronomers find closest black hole to Earth, hints of more

By SETH BORENSTEIN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Meet your new but shy galactic neighbor: A black hole left over from the death of a fleeting young star.

European astronomers have found the closest black hole to Earth yet, so near that the two stars dancing with it can be seen by the naked eye.

Of course, close is relative on the galactic scale. This black hole is about 1,000 light-years away and each light-year is 5.9 trillion miles (9.5 trillion kilometers). But in terms of the cosmos and even the galaxy, it is in our neighborhood, said European Southern Observatory astronomer Thomas Rivinius, who led the study published Wednesday in the journal Astronomy & Astrophysics.

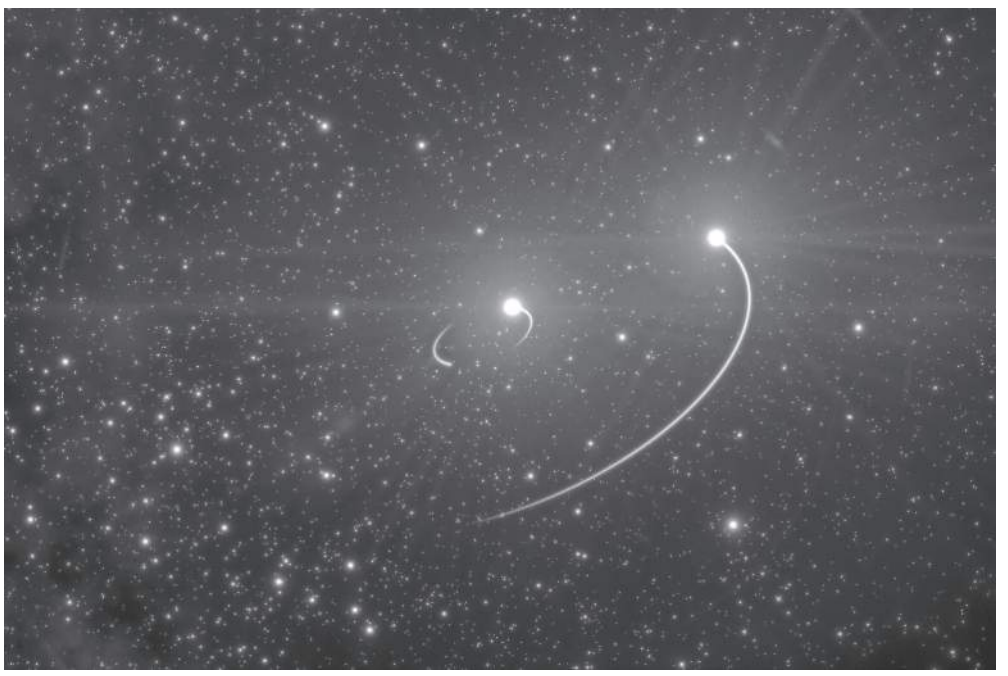
The previous closest black hole is probably about three times further, about 3,200 light-years, he said.

The discovery of a closer black hole, which is in the constellation Telescopium in the Southern Hemisphere, hints that there are more of these out there. Astronomers theorize there are between 100 million to 1 billion of these small but dense objects in the Milky Way.

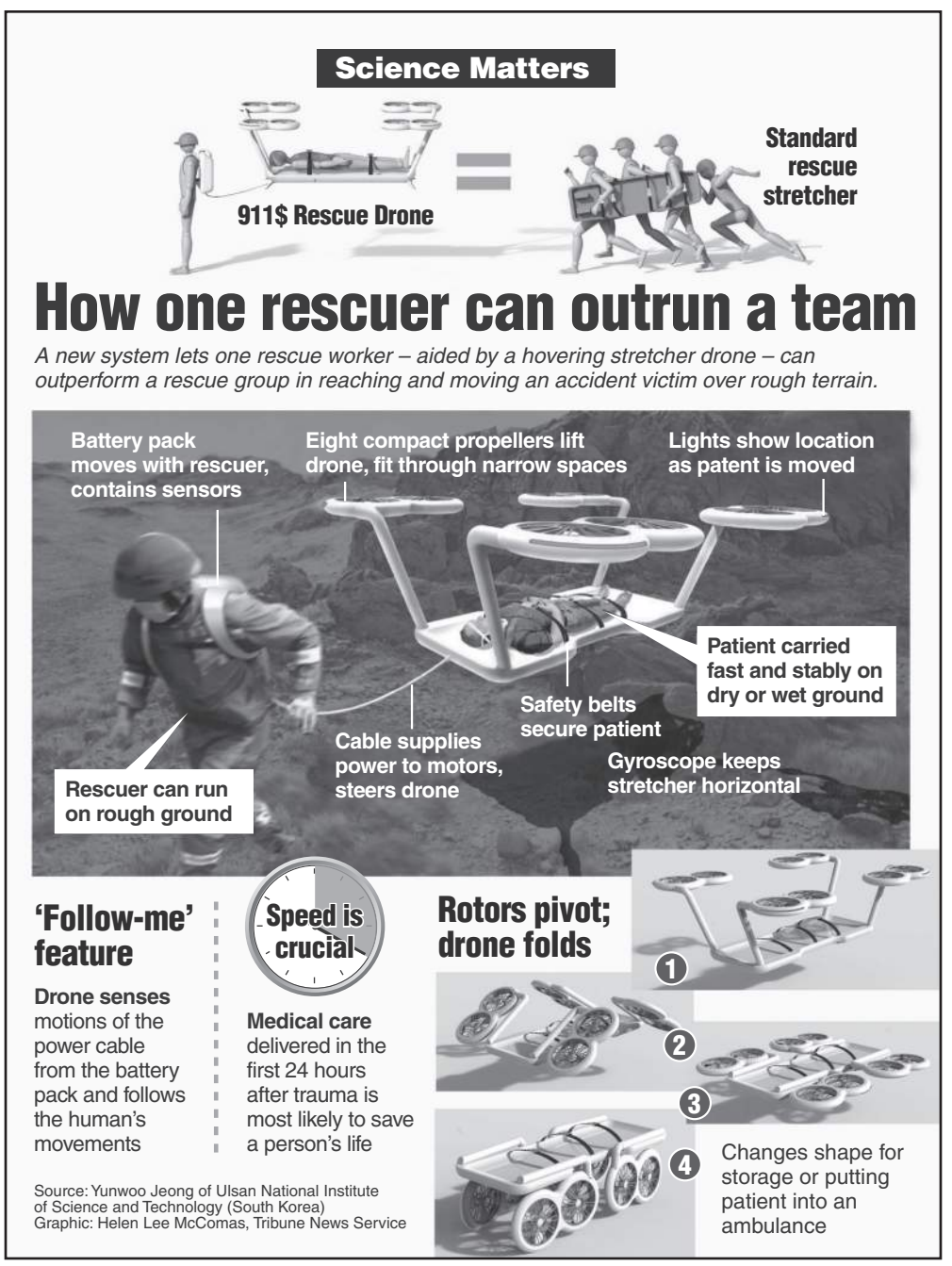
The trouble is we can't see them. Nothing, not even light, escapes a black hole's gravity. Usually, scientists can only spot them when they're gobbling up sections of a partner star or something else falling into them. Astronomers think most black holes, including this newly discovered one, don't have anything close enough to swallow. So they go undetected.

Astronomers found this one because of the unusual orbit of a star. The new black hole is part of what used to be a three-star dance in a system called HR6819. The two remaining super-hot stars aren't close enough to be sucked in, but the inner star's orbit is warped.

Using a telescope in Chile, they confirmed that there was something about four or five times the mass of our sun pulling on the inner star. It could only be a black hole, they concluded.



This illustration provided by the European Southern Observatory in May 2020 shows the orbits of the objects in the HR 6819 triple system.
AP


Science Matters
911$ Rescue Drone
Standard rescue stretcher
How one rescuer can outrun a team
A new system lets one rescue worker – aided by a hovering stretcher drone – can outperform a rescue group in reaching and moving an accident victim over rough terrain.
Battery pack moves with rescuer, contains sensors
Eight compact propellers lift drone, fit through narrow spaces
Lights show location as patent is moved
Patient carried fast and stably on dry or wet ground
Safety belts secure patient
Cable supplies power to motors, steers drone
Gyroscope keeps stretcher horizontal
Rescuer can run on rough ground
'Follow-me' feature
Drone senses motions of the power cable from the battery pack and follows the human's movements
Speed is crucial
Medical care delivered in the first 24 hours after trauma is most likely to save a person's life
Rotors pivot; drone folds
1
2
3
4
Changes shape for storage or putting patient into an ambulance
Source: Yunwoo Jeong of Ulsan National Institute of Science and Technology (South Korea)
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

China plans to complete space station by 2022

BEIJING (AP)—China plans to send four crewed space missions and the same number of cargo craft to complete work on its permanent space station within about two years, officials said after the launch of a newly designed spacecraft aboard the latest heavy-lift rocket.

The announcement by the country's crewed space program further cements China's aspirations to rival the U.S., Europe, Russia and private companies in outer space exploration.

The unmanned spacecraft and its return capsule were flung into space aboard a Long March 5B rocket in its debut flight Tuesday evening from the Wenchang launch center in the southern island province of Hainan.

The capsule is reportedly an improvement on the Shenzhou capsule based on the former Soviet Union's Soyuz model and can carry six astronauts rather than the current three.

China earlier launched an experimental space station that later crashed back through the atmosphere, and plans to build a larger facility with multiple modules to rival the scale of the International Space Station.

China's burgeoning space program achieved a milestone last year by landing a spacecraft on the largely unexplored dark side of the moon and has plans to launch a lander and rover on Mars.

The program has developed rapidly, especially since its first crewed mission in 2003, and has sought cooperation with space agencies in Europe and elsewhere.

Home network can cause video delays on Zoom

Q: During Zoom video calls, my screen image follows my actual movements very slowly. If I move my head or speak, there's sometimes a delay of two seconds or more before it happens on my screen. (This didn't happen during a Microsoft Teams video call.) Other people in the Zoom meeting say they don't have the same problem. I've updated Zoom and my Windows 10 PC, but nothing helps. What's wrong?

A: The possible causes include your home network, your internet connection or the Zoom video-calling service—or maybe all three.

There will always some time-lag problems on video calls due to signal processing and internet congestion issues (Microsoft Teams has also had lag time issues.) But your relatively long Zoom delays, and the fact that others on your Zoom call don't experience them, are unusual.

The first thing you should do is check the speeds of your internet connection (determined by your internet service provider) and your home network (determined by its connections).

Test your internet speed at Speedtest (tinyurl.com/y3kon7nl), nPerf (tinyurl.com/y5utxtf5) or Comparitech (tinyurl.com/ybww67jl).

For one-to-one video calls, Zoom requires that you have 0.6 megabit upload and download speeds for basic video, and 1.2 to 1.8 megabit speeds for high-definition video. Group video meetings require higher speeds (see tinyurl.com/hpjtc98).

Adjust your home network. If your Wi-Fi is slow, it can add delays to a video call. Try using a wired connection between your computer and modem to speed things up.

If you must use Wi-Fi, move your computer closer to your Wi-Fi router to reduce time lag (Wi-Fi signal strength is weakened by distance and barriers such as walls.) Alternatively, you can buy a wireless router with a stronger signal or a Wi-Fi extender that will expand the range of your existing router.

If the lag time is caused by Zoom, there are some things you can fix and some you can't.

You can adjust the time of day you use Zoom. The service has been experiencing high demand from people working at home during the day. As a result, you might experience less lag time if you use Zoom during off-peak hours.

Unless you pay for Zoom service, you can't maximize the way Zoom connects international video calls. As a result, during a free international call you might be much farther from the Zoom regional data center being used than the other participants are. That could cause time lag for you, but not others (see tinyurl.com/ycqgnz2v).

Q: When I watch movies on my 55-inch Samsung smart TV, I sometimes get black bars at the top and bottom of the screen. Why doesn't the TV reformat the images to make them full screen?

A: The TV is opting to give you a nondistorted picture, which works in your favor.

Many movies have been filmed in different picture shapes, called "aspect ratios." If a movie's aspect ratio doesn't fit your TV screen, you can either watch it normally on a partial screen (with black bars) or have the picture stretched or cropped to fit your full screen (see tinyurl.com/y9q35czu).

TECH Q&A

By STEVE ALEXANDER
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. *Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.*

Life & Style

AP

In this Nov. 19, 2019, file photo, American Ballet Theatre's principal dancer Misty Copeland poses for a portrait in New York.

Copeland leads dancers in virtual ballet for charity

NEW YORK (AP)—A ballerina in Australia floats across the dining room floor in a hijab. Another leaps in the air on a rooftop in the Philippines, while still another showcases her intricate footwork in her backyard in the United States.

Wearing tutus or tank tops, bowing to kitchen stoves or trees blowing in the wind, 32 dancers from 14 countries strapped on their toe shoes to perform a dance for a virtual audience to benefit the struggling dance community.

"It really felt like an opportunity to bring the dance world together and to really bring our forces together. And I felt like we could have more impact that way," said Misty Copeland, who is the first dancer featured in the video and came up with the initiative with her former colleague, Joseph Phillips.

" Swans for Relief " is designed to raise funds for dancers all over the world who have lost their jobs after ballet performances, like most public events, were shut down due to social distancing requirements to stem the spread of COVID-19.

"Once you're let go of a company, it's really difficult to find work again within that company or another company. So… I started reaching out to my friends," she told The Associated Press in a Zoom interview Tuesday from her New York City home. "And it was just incredible that everyone I was reaching out to, I was just shocked that it was like: 'Yes! I'm in!'"

Copeland partnered with the Entertainment Industry Foundation (EIF), with seed funding provided by K Period Media, to launch the program. A $500,000 goal has been set to help ballet dancers maintain their living expenses, since so many ballet companies and venues are closed.

The 32 ballerinas in the compilation video represent companies from all over the globe, including China, Russia, Europe, Cuba, Mexico, Philippines, South Africa, Canada, and the United States. The video, released Wednesday, shows each dancer at home performing the iconic steps from "Dying Swan," set to "Le Cygne (The Swan)," performed by cellist Wade Davis.

Having a diverse group for the video was a top priority for Copeland, a trailblazer who is the first black female principal dancer at her company, American Ballet Theatre.

"I think that's something that I've been fighting for my entire career, is to truly show the representation of what the world looks like within the ballet community," she said. "You'll see the diversity within this film. But it was also important for me to not just go for the biggest ballet stars, but to look within these companies and see talent, see up-and-coming talent and see diversity."

For Copeland, the video also represents an opportunity for the ballet world to rethink how it interacts with fans.

Harry and Meghan mark son's 1st birthday with charity video

LONDON (AP)—The Duke and Duchess of Sussex have released a video of Meghan reading to their son as they mark Archie's 1st birthday and promote a campaign to help children during the coronavirus pandemic.

The video shows Meghan sitting with Archie on her lap and reading one of his favorite books, "Duck! Rabbit!" Archie grabs at the pages and helps turn them during the reading. Harry, who filmed the short video, whoops and says "bravo" from behind the camera at the end.

The three-minute video was posted Wednesday on the Instagram accounts of Save With Stories and Save the Children U.K. for a fundraising campaign with the goal bringing food and learning resources to children and families struggling during the pandemic.

Archie Harrison Mountbatten-Windsor was born on May 6, 2019 at London's Portland Hospital. His parents chose not to pose with their newborn outside the hospital, a recent tradition in Harry's family, and decided against giving the baby a royal name.

Archie had an eventful first year. He accompanied his parents on a tour of Africa and at the age of 4 months was introduced to Archbishop Desmond Tutu, a Nobel Peace Prize winner.

Prince guitar, McCartney Beatles lyrics come up for auction

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A guitar from Prince's prime and some legendary Beatles lyrics sketched out by Paul McCartney are among the items going up for auction at a major music artifacts sale.

Julien's Auctions announced Monday that the auction taking place June 19 and 20 in Beverly Hills and online will include a 1984 blue "cloud" guitar custom-made for Prince that he played in his prime period just after "Purple Rain."

The auctioneer calls the instrument, with the artist's "love" symbol on the neck and gold hardware, "one of the most important guitars from the early years of Prince's career ever to come to auction." It's projected to fetch between $100,000 and $200,000, the auction house said.

A purple suit, a pendant and a pair of boots from Prince will be for sale too.

A page of McCartney's handwritten lyrics, featuring cross-outs, revisions and earlier drafts of lines for the song "Maxwell's Silver Hammer," from the Beatles' 1969 album "Abbey Road," will also be up for auction.

The lyric sheet is expected to draw between $200,000 and $300,000.

Altering wife's perfect dishes is blasted by sympathetic cook

DEAR ABBY: Regarding "Recipe for Disaster in Texas" (Feb. 17), I have to say I disagreed with your response. Although Michelin won't be awarding me any stars, I consider myself a good cook, and I strive to make unique, flavorful meals for my family. My husband frequently feels the need to doctor my recipes, and I think it's disrespectful of the time and care I took in preparing the meal.

He insists on combining ingredients that don't belong together. He puts cheddar cheese on spaghetti Bolognese and ranch dressing on chicken teriyaki. He knows this isn't appropriate, and he would never ask for this modification in a restaurant.

"Recipe" should learn to appreciate that his wife is preparing meals for him. If he can do better, he can take over the cooking.

FLAVOR QUEEN OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR QUEEN: I enjoyed the responses to that letter about a husband reseasoning his wife's gourmet meals to her distinct displeasure. Some of the online comments made me chuckle, so I'll share them, too. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: While I was in the military, it was normal to add salt, pepper and ketchup to everything without tasting it first. The habit has followed me for 50 years, no matter where I am. I tell the host that it's normal for me and to not take it personally. Mac 'n' cheese needs ketchup; veggies, potatoes, eggs and watermelon need salt; most everything else needs pepper. For me to taste something, it has to burn my tongue.

VIETNAM VET IN MISSOURI

DEAR ABBY: That wife sounds like an oversensitive control freak. Personally, I can't handle peppers, but I do like lots of cheese and sour cream on my enchiladas. My wife, who does the majority of the cooking, knows my preference, so she does me the honor of putting more of that on my enchiladas. I also like to dip my fries into mayo instead of ketchup, so she obliges. This is what we do for people we love. We don't threaten, "My way or the highway, Bub!"

G.S. IN ABBYLAND

DEAR ABBY: I laughed when I was told to substitute "healthy" plain yogurt for sour cream. It never tasted anything like sour cream to me. Then I got some Greek yogurt and realized it works just as well. (It's an excellent protein source, and many older adults need more as we age.) Now I add plenty without feeling guilty.

ONLINE LOVER

DEAR ABBY: My husband jokes that he has Mexican taste buds but a white guy stomach. Thank heavens we have separate bathrooms.

C.K. ON THE NET

DEAR ABBY: I know when my husband gets out the Tabasco that the meal is not quite to his liking. I don't usually mind, because I don't cook just for him. I cook for the entire family. (And, just for reference, he thinks I'm an amazing cook.)

P.M. ON THE WEB

DEAR ABBY: Oh, yes—Tabasco sauce. My dad had so much of it in his lifetime, he should have been McIlhenny's pitchman. I can see the ad now:

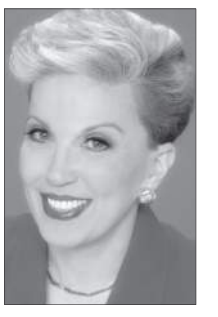
Announcer: What do YOU have Tabasco with?
Man: I have it with chili!
Woman: I have it with eggs!
My dad: I have it with a straw.

"ABBDICT" A.C.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

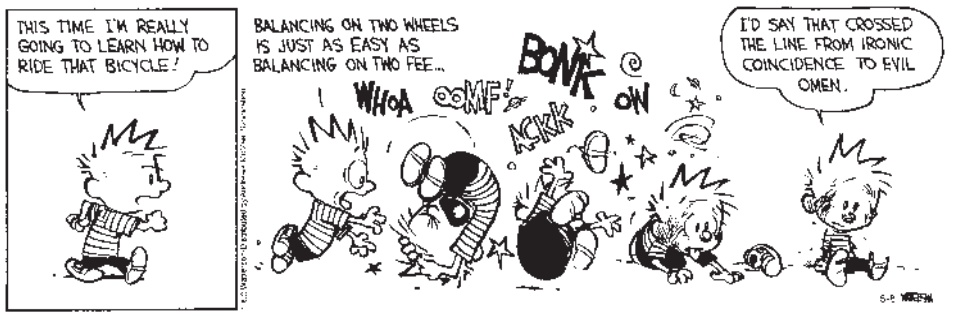


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


THIS TIME I'M REALLY GOING TO LEARN HOW TO RIDE THAT BICYCLE!
BALANCING ON TWO WHEELS IS JUST AS EASY AS BALANCING ON TWO FEE...
WHOA
OOMF!
BONK
ON
ACKK
I'D SAY THAT CROSSED THE LINE FROM IRONIC COINCIDENCE TO EVIL OMEN.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

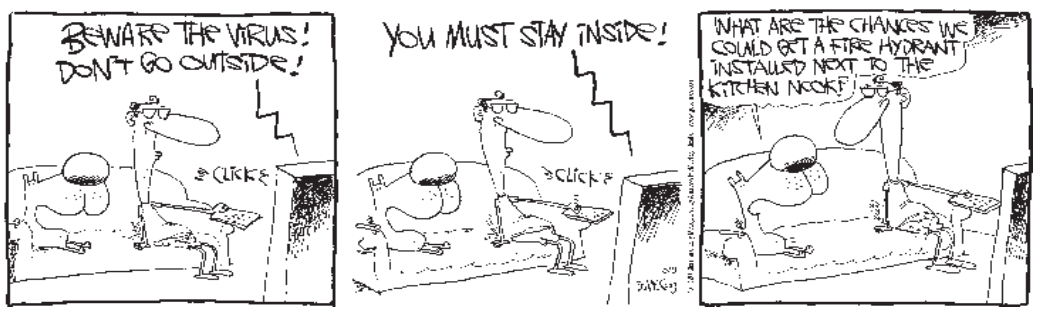
THE SECRET TO HAPPINESS IS LEARNING TO LAUGH
AT YOURSELF?
NO, AT OTHERS. ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY FALL DOWN AND SPILL STUFF AND ROLL ALL AROUND, AND...
JIM DAVIS 5-8

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


BEWARE THE VIRUS! DON'T GO OUTSIDE!
CLICK
YOU MUST STAY INSIDE!
CLICK
WHAT ARE THE CHANCES WE COULD GET A FIRE HYDRANT INSTALLED NEXT TO THE KITCHEN NOOK?

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Uses a phone
6 Trio after Q
9 Nile viper
12 Popular typeface
13 Here, to Henri
14 Half of XIV
15 "Spanglish" star Téa
16 Christen
18 Talk on and on
20 Power co. supply
21 Omega preceder
23 Tofu source
24 Rental contract
25 Fixed look
27 Bowling lane button
29 Act parts
31 Casual top
35 Suspect's excuse
37 Jazz singer James
38 Nontalkers
41 Moreover
43 Poetic dusk
44 Indy event
45 Honor
47 Work with
49 Ecstasy
52 Peak (Abbr.)
53 Hosp. workers
54 Barber's tool
55 Entreat
56 Granola morsel
57 Amazon's virtual assistant

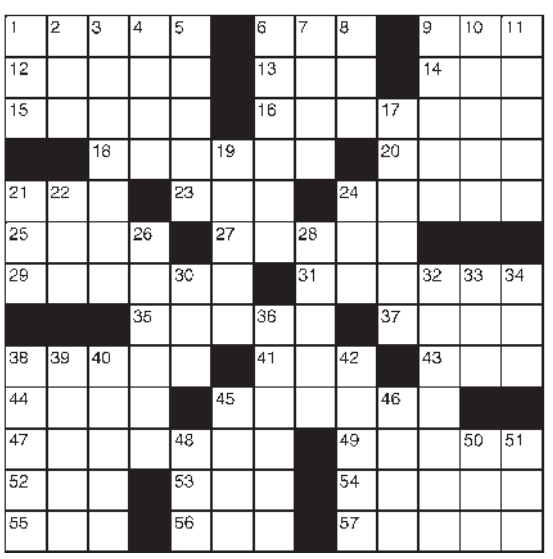
DOWN

1 Nev. neighbor
2 Exist
3 Treat as a celebrity
4 Actress Turner
5 Narrow cuts
6 Steak cut
7 "Lion King" villain
8 Gratuity
9 St. Teresa's city
10 Small, medium and large, e.g.
11 Fragment
17 Acquire canines
19 Upper body sculptures
21 Film ratings
22 Pouch
24 French article
26 Nail polish
28 Service period
30 Golfer Ernie
32 Fill out Schedule A
33 Way to go (Abbr.)
34 Light brown
36 Most despicable
38 Cookie morsel
39 Coffee bar offering
40 Getting 100 on
42 Messing on TV
45 Pound of verse
46 Airline to Tel Aviv
48 Altar affirmative
50 Boston team, for short
51 Madrid Mrs.

Solution time: 25 mins.

D	E	L			A	L	P		D	Y	E	S
O	P	E	N		D	O	H		W	A	L	L
R	E	F	S		O	L	E		A	L	L	I
M	E	T	E	O	R		W	R	Y	E	S	T
			R	N	A			I	N	G		
B	U	R			B	A	N	K	E	R	A	D
A	M	A			L	E	E			A	N	I
R	A	D		O	E	R	A		A	D	D	S
		I	N	N			R	B	I			
S	I	S		E	R		N	O	R	M	A	N
C	O	H	O		A	X	E		B	I	T	E
O	W	E	N		N	O	S		U	N	I	T
T	A	S	E			O	S		S	E	T	S

Yesterday's answer 5-8



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Stephen Amell, 39; Enrique Iglesias, 45; Melissa Gilbert, 56; David Keith, 66.

Happy Birthday: Keep an open mind, but don't let anyone meddle in your personal or professional business. Stick to the truth, and focus on what you want and what you are willing to give in return. Honesty will make a difference in the outcome this year. Before making a change, be sure it's what you want. Put more merit on rules, regulations and accuracy. Your numbers are 7, 18, 22, 27, 35, 42, 44.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Expect the unexpected, and you will be ready for whatever comes your way. Be willing and prepared to jump at an opportunity and to make whatever adjustments are necessary to reach your goal. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Reach out to someone you love. A shopping spree will be satisfying as long as you stick to your budget. Walk away from unsavory situations. Now is not the time to argue over something you cannot change. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* A positive attitude regarding skills, knowledge and what's trending in your area will help you head in a direction that shows economic promise. Instead of worrying about the future, be proactive and adjust to social requirements. Self-improvement is encouraged. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Put time and effort into what you can do to improve your situation. Use your imagination, and pull your resources together. Don't let negativity set in when you should be open to positive change. Use your talents to subsidize your income. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Keep your opinions to yourself, and you'll avoid unwanted repercussions. Look at what you can do that will make your life easier, finances healthier and relationships with others better. Diplomacy will help you get your way. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Online art exhibits and tours, educational pursuits and social media events will enhance your life. Collaborate with someone who complements what you have to offer, and you'll come up with a plan that will encourage a positive lifestyle change. Let go of what's no longer working for you. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Help a cause or someone you love. It's up to you to determine what's important to you and how best to funnel your energy. Refuse to let someone's selfish or demanding attitude ruin your day. Follow your heart, and satisfy your soul. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Arguing won't help you get your way. Pay attention to detail, the people who share your beliefs and interests, and the changes you want to make to the way you live or do things. Limit emotional spending or trying to buy affection. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Handle gossip carefully. Don't let confusion set in because one person tells you one thing and another just the opposite. When in doubt, go directly to the source, and make up your mind based on facts. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Discuss your feelings and intentions. The higher the transparency, the easier it will be to get others on board. A partnership will need an adjustment if it's going to maintain equilibrium. A change at home will lead to a force play. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Put in the effort and reap the rewards. Finish what you start, and honor your promises. Don't bend to someone's whims. Spend time doing the things that bring you the most joy. Self-improvement, romance and entertainment should be priorities. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't let jealousy or someone from your past cause problems between you and someone close to you. If change is what you want, be the one to instigate plans to ensure you get the results you want. Be direct, honest and fair. 2 stars

Birthday Baby: You are engaging, adaptable and opportunistic. You are curious and personable.

Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn. Copyright 2020 Andrews McMeel Syndication

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		4	8			
	9		6	7		5
		7			2	
8	4					9	6
3	1					4	7
		5			9	
	8		3	4		7
			8	2		

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 5/08

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

5	6	9	8	2	7	4	1	3
7	4	3	1	6	5	9	2	8
2	1	8	3	4	9	6	7	5
1	9	5	4	7	6	3	8	2
8	7	4	9	3	2	1	5	6
6	3	2	5	8	1	7	9	4
4	8	1	7	5	3	2	6	9
9	5	6	2	1	4	8	3	7
3	2	7	6	9	8	5	4	1

Difficulty Level ★★★

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

GRILLING SOME SAUSAGE — Solution: 4 letters

A	A	D	N	U	O	R	G	R	E	P	P	E	P	O
K	K	N	O	B	L	E	M	E	N	O	L	E	A	N
S	S	S	Y	C	Ⓗ	G	G	N	O	L	G	L	K	I
W	J	H	W	Ⓢ	O	I	S	B	M	A	L	L	S	O
I	E	M	Ⓘ	O	O	O	Z	E	S	N	P	I	L	N
L	I	Ⓓ	R	L	K	N	K	U	C	D	G	V	O	D
S	W	B	I	A	L	A	A	E	R	U	S	N	P	R
Y	G	T	E	E	F	S	R	B	D	E	A	O	A	A
M	A	N	T	Y	P	E	H	K	A	O	K	S	U	H
A	R	R	I	D	H	O	P	I	N	K	P	N	Y	P
R	L	K	L	C	C	U	R	E	R	I	R	H	E	O
K	I	O	T	M	I	X	E	D	C	E	I	O	K	T
E	C	U	K	N	I	L	R	E	E	D	C	J	R	A
T	B	E	L	P	A	T	S	M	O	K	E	D	U	T
S	L	O	S	O	L	K	E	P	I	M	E	N	T	O

© 2020 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderwordcom 5/8

Biala, Butcher, Cold, Cooked, Cure, Deer, Dish, Farm, Feet, Garlic, Ground, Hang, Hard, Hillshire, Johnsonville, Kabanosy, Krakowska, Lamb, Lean, Link, Long, Markets, Mixed, Mysliwska, Noblemen, Onion, Peklosol, Pepper, Pimento, Pink, Poland, Polska, Potato, Region, Rice, Rope, Sauces, Sausage, Slicing, Smoked, Soup, Spices, Staple, Turkey, Type, Wiejska, Zurek

Yesterday's Answer: Virtually

Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand. Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

NBA proceeding with extreme caution

FLORIDA (AP)—The NBA says some players can voluntarily return to their team practice facilities starting Friday, with some very specific conditions and only in places where local and state governments have signed off on such openings.

It's unclear how many players will be back on the floor Friday when the league ban gets lifted. Miami is allowed to open its doors for the first time in six weeks but won't until at least Monday while it works out certain logistical details. Orlando isn't going to welcome players back immediately either. Same goes for Utah, the first NBA team to deal with the coronavirus after Rudy Gobert tested positive March 11 and the league shut down almost immediately. And most teams aren't allowed to open yet to because of local rules.

Basketball hasn't been played in two months and the league, the teams and the players still seem to have a universal desire to get back to work, finish this season and crown a champion. But, perhaps mindful of challenges other leagues have faced in their efforts to resume play amid a coronavirus pandemic that has shut down the sports world, the NBA seems to be moving with extreme caution.

"The biggest goal is to have the confidence of the players and the staff that they can enter the facility safely," Utah general manager Dennis Lindsey said.

Simultaneously, everybody wants to play, and everybody wonders if it's safe to play. It's like all parties involved know that a major misstep now could doom any realistic chance of playing anytime in the next few months.

In this Feb. 29, 2020 file photo, Miami Heat head coach Erik Spoelstra calls out a play during the second half of an NBA game against the Brooklyn Nets in Miami. AP

"Our task force at the league is studying how do we get back to playing basketball again, following the data, looking at every possible model," Magic CEO Alex Martins said this week while addressing an Orlando-area economic forum.

And opening the practice courts is only Phase One.

Phase Two, who knows when that will come. It's not imminent.

Games are not close. Getting players back into facilities is not a precursor to games being played, it's more about keeping them out of public gyms and playgrounds that are starting to reopen. Positive tests during individual training or practices could delay or destroy plans for games.

There are some reasons for hope. The NBA is still working toward a plan to test players if the season resumes. It has exchanged data with leagues across the world, and there have been some success stories. Baseball is being played again in South Korea. MLS teams returned to fields Wednesday for workouts with restrictions. Germany's top soccer league has allowed players to return to training facilities, even though some staff and players have tested positive.

It's the NBA's turn to start seeing where it stands.

"There's been this unprecedented collaboration and communication among scientists across the world right now," said Dr. John DiFiori, the NBA's Director of Sports Medicine. "What's going on sports medicine sort of parallels that at a much different level of course. But there is an awful lot of that going on across the world right now. It's at least daily communication in one way, shape or another with colleagues across the world in all these different leagues, because we're all learning from each other."

The rules that NBA teams will have to adhere to when they resume even the voluntary workouts are like none previously put in place. A 12-feet buffer between everyone, one player per basket, one ball per basket, no more than four players in the facility at once. Everyone must wear masks and gloves, the lone exception being players while they work out. Every player must undergo cardiac screening before resuming voluntary workouts.

Spalding, which makes NBA basketballs, has even developed a plan that has been sent to teams for how to clean the balls after workouts: wipe them down with a solution made from a quarter-teaspoon of dish soap like Dawn mixed with a gallon of water, then further wipe them down with just water, allow them to air dry, then spray the balls with a disinfectant.

"We're all analyzing information and talking through what-ifs and trying to learn little details that could make a difference," DiFiori said. "It's literally a constant, daily process."

Cleveland is among the teams planning to open its doors to players Friday, along with Portland and Denver. By next week, a few teams will have players back at work and getting shots up again.

"We will be opening up in a soft opening ... at some point, soon," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said in a chat on the NBA's Twitter channel Wednesday night. "There's a flickering of a light that we're all feeling right now, but I think it's also important that we all stay extremely aware and vigilant as we take these incremental steps forward."

If all goes right, most teams may be back within two or three weeks. Maybe in June, they can practice. Maybe in July, the season can resume. There are countless hurdles to clear by then, the testing issue foremost among them. It is far from certain that the season gets saved.

But getting back onto the court is a good first step, even if the NBA is taking baby steps on the way there.

No head coaches at practices

The league is rolling out guidelines for the teams able to open up shop per their respective state laws. One of the rules is that head coaches can't be part of workouts.

Assistant coaches will be permitted to coach the players. Just not head coaches.

Though there wasn't much context provided, one can surmise it has something to do with competitive balance. The teams that begin training will have an advantage over the teams that have to wait for their states to relax social distancing laws.

The Wizards are one of the teams that will have to wait. D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser has maintained she will not reopen the city until there are at least two weeks of declining coronavirus cases.

That means that the NBA preventing other teams' head coaches from actively coaching players could help level the playing field for them. But the main advantage in reopening facilities is providing the players courts to practice on.

Wizards general manager Tommy Sheppard said recently only about half his players have hoops at home where they can shoot. They aren't the only team in this boat, either.

Players and team doctors have estimated the NBA will need a few weeks of training camp before restarting the games. As long as there are teams that can't open their practice courts, that clock can't really start.

Warriors could trade pick for Magic's Gordon

CALIFORNIA—If the Warriors end up winning the No. 1 pick in the NBA Draft Lottery (whenever it ends up being held), general manager Bob Myers will face an intriguing decision.

Utilize it on one of this year's top prospects, like Georgia's Anthony Edwards or Memphis big man James Wiseman? Or use it to acquire a more developed player who can step into the starting lineup and make an instant impact?

If Myers and Golden State's front office elect to trade the pick, Bleacher Report's Zach Buckley thinks an ideal fit could be Bay Area native Aaron Gordon.

Gordon grew up in San Jose and played high school ball at powerhouse Archbishop Mitty, before eventually being drafted No. 4 overall by the Orlando Magic in 2014.

The 6-foot-8 forward's athleticism jumps off the screen, as his high-flying dunks have been setting crowds in a frenzy since his prep days in the South Bay. He has refined his game during his six NBA seasons, and was averaging 14.4 points, 7.6 rebounds, and 3.7 assists before the NBA's indefinite suspension.

As Buckley notese, the Warriors first would need to acquire a separate player with the Andre Iguodala trade exception and then use that player in this deal to make the numbers align for the salary cap. But if Golden State could package that player and the No. 1 overall pick, getting back a guy like Gordon and Orlando's first-round pick , which still falls in the lottery, would be a win for the Warriors.

Gordon's defensive versatility and lack of a need for touches on the offensive end easily would allow him to slide into a Warriors rotation that will have plenty of shots accounted for between Steph Curry, Klay Thompson, Andrew Wiggins and Draymond Green. Plus still being able to bring in a young player with a high ceiling simply would allow Golden State to draft the best player available and not force them into playing time.

Jeff Van Gundy told KNBR on Tuesday that he believes it would be prudent for the Warriors to consider shopping the team's lottery pick for a win-now player.

There are some pretty impressive prospects in this year's draft class, so it wouldn't be a surprise if Myers elects to hold onto the top pick should the balls go their way. But as far as potential trade chips the Warriors could poach for the No. 1 pick, you could do a lot worse than Gordon. ***(NBC)***

MLB to propose season plan; eyes July opening

NEW YORK — Some smoke is slowly starting to emerge over what the MLB is planning to do with its suspended 2020 season amid the coronavirus pandemic.

MLB plans to present a plan for the 2020 season to the MLB Players Association within the next week.

The pie-in-the-sky hope for returning to action is reportedly an opening day in early July, with a second spring training in June. The Cleveland Indians told their players to be prepared for camp to begin again on June 10 and an opening day on July 1.

However, both reports conceded that MLB will need the coronavirus situation to get wildly better over the coming weeks for a July opening day to be feasible at all. Particularly, the league needs the United States' coronavirus testing capacity to significantly increase.

Even then, it might not be enough.

Oddly enough, it was reported that the idea of teams playing the season in quarantine conditions while moving between stadiums and hotels in a single area is seen as "the least desirable option," and that the league hopes to play in as many of its home cities as possible.

AP

In this March 9, 2020 file photo, Cleveland Indians' Delino DeShields (0) breaks up a double play hit by teammate Jake Bauers as he is forced out by Los Angeles Angels' Andrelton Simmons during the third inning of a spring training baseball game in Tempe, Ariz.

That could be highly unfeasible. Multiple experts, including White House coronavirus expert Dr. Anthony Fauci, have described the quarantine league as the ideal way to play games amid the conditions of the pandemic. While the idea of an isolated season has its drawbacks, it comes with the bonus of significantly reducing chances of the virus spreading into the league.

If the league is playing games with teams moving between cities, that means more air travel and hotels every week. It means an increased potential exposure to the virus, and an increased chance of losing a place to play if that state's government issues another stringent stay-at-home order.

So MLB can choose between a potentially uneven and unsafe season by moving between cities, or an unpopular and unpleasant option for players by setting up a quarantine league. Either way, players could potentially refuse to play given the sacrifices of increased COVID-19 risk or isolation.

The NBA, a league with much smaller rosters and a season that was nearing its end, reportedly estimated it will need 15,000 tests to start back up again. MLB will almost certainly need more, and that probably means waiting until the United States has mass access to testing.

Some fans might be heartened by seeing South Korea's KBO already back in action, but the U.S. has a long way to go before South Korea can be considered an example of what can be done in the country.

There is so much left to figure out, and so much that needs to happen before an MLB — and NBA, and NHL—return is even remotely feasible. We'll have to wait and see what MLB thinks it can pull off in the coming months.

'You can't tell a guy to risk his life'

While MLB continues weighing options for a potential 2020 season, one veteran pitcher says players, coaches, and umpires should not be forced to participate if they feel conditions are unsafe.

Speaking to MassLive's Chris Cotillo on Wednesday, Boston Red Sox right-hander Collin McHugh says the risks associated with playing baseball during the COVID-19 pandemic might not be worth it to those with preexisting or underlying conditions, stating "you can't tell a guy to risk his life and the life of his family and the lives of anyone he chooses to be around to come play this game."

During the interview, McHugh expressed cautious optimism that MLB can formulate a plan that would allow baseball to safely return. However, he doesn't necessarily believe there's a magic plan that will ease everyone's mind. If the season restarts, players will have to weigh the risks on an individual basis and should feel free to make the best decision for them.

"I'm a husband, I'm a father. There are many guys in the league with underlying conditions. With preexisting conditions, like diabetes and heart arrhythmia. You look at our coaching staffs, there's tons of guys over 65. Umpires, there's a lot of guys over 65. When you're talking about the risk factors here, there are going to be some guys who sincerely have to weigh the risks of what it's going to take to come back versus staying at home," McHugh said.

"We're in a situation right now where you can't make this mandatory. You can't tell a guy you have to come play or else your roster spot is not going to be here when you come back. You can't tell a guy to risk his life and the life of his family and the lives of anyone he chooses to be around to come play this game. There's probably going to have to be some waivers signed and whatever else you need to have done to make guys feel comfortable coming back. Then, MLB and the teams are going to have to do everything in their power so that we go about this in the best way possible and don't just start playing games, but really set an example of how to do this, how to do it well and how to do it safely," he added. ***(NBC)***

2021 Australian Open under threat

SYDNEY (AP) — The Australian Open may be eight months away and partitioned by a new year, but organizers are already mindful of the possibility that it may not take place.

Craig Tiley, the Tennis Australia chief executive, told Australian Associated Press that the tournament, due to begin in January 2021, "will be compromised" as his team prepare a series of contingency plans amid the uncertainty of coronavirus.

The organization is modelling and preparing for four possible scenarios in their contingency plans, which are said to include the possibility of playing the tournament behind closed doors. "Worst-case scenario is no AO," Tiley said. "Our best-case scenario at this point is having an AO with players that we can get in here with quarantining techniques and Australian-only fans."

Tiley's comments reflect the grim reality for a global sport such as tennis at a time when international travel is restricted and many countries require new arrivals to self-quarantine upon landing. Even his best-case scenario presents a fundamental problem for the functioning of the sport, where players flit from city to city each week. Should the players arrive at the Australian Open, it remains to be seen whether they would be able to compete elsewhere.

The tennis season is listed to return in July before the US Open. But the tournament's Arthur Ashe Stadium is configured as a temporary hospital for coronavirus patients in New York. The US Open will make a definitive decision on its status in June but the Coupe Rogers, an important women's warm-up tournament in Montreal, has been cancelled since mid-April. The French Open, now listed as the final grand slam tournament of the year, is due to begin at the end of September, just weeks after France's ban of sporting events is due to be lifted.

The issues crossing borders and time zones mean the discourse across tennis is starkly different to that of domestic sports across the world. While other sports debate the conditions and timing of their resumptions, tennis players have consistently stated they believe the season is already finished. During his successful win at the Virtual Madrid Open, Andy Murray made his priorities clear: "Let's just try to get things back to normal first and then we can think about playing sport again.

Nadal: Scrap 2020 season

Rafael Nadal doesn't think tennis is worth it in 2020.

The 19-time Grand Slam champion would rather focus on a normal 2021 season instead.

Nadal told newspapers in his native Spain on Tuesday that he would prefer for the sport to focus on preparing for the Australian Open to kick off next year's Grand Slam season than try to salvage this year's slate amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I would sign up right now just to being ready for 2021," Nadal told El País, per the Associated Press. "I'm more concerned with the Australian Open than with what happens later this year. I think 2020 has been practically lost. I'm hopeful of being able to start next year."

The 2020 Australian Open was played prior to COVID-19 taking hold as a global pandemic. The French Open—the second major on the tennis calendar — was postponed from its May 24 start date in hopes of starting play Sept. 20.

The September start date would place it after the U.S. Open which is still on schedule for an Aug. 24 start date. The U.S. Open is traditionally the last tournament on the Grand Slam calendar.

Wimbledon reportedly had an insurance policy in place with a $140 million payout and made the early decision to cancel the summer tournament altogether.

Nadal expressed on Tuesday concern that improper conditioning as players are prohibited from using training facilities presents an injury risk if they are rushed back into tournament play.

Bears to face AFC South teams in first 4 weeks

The NFL will unveil the 2020 regular-season schedule on Thursday night, but with COVID-19 continuing to alter the everyday reality in the United States, the potential for canceled games is very real. As a result, the NFL may have a smart strategy in place to provide early-season flexibility.

According to longtime NFL reporter John Clayton, the NFL will schedule out-of-conference contests for September's slate of games. For the Bears, that means games against AFC South opponents: Texans, Jaguars Colts and Titans.

Canceling out-of-conference games, while shortening the season, won't impact the league's playoff race. It's the smartest way to preserve a season while maintaining whatever health and safety measures might still be required when September rolls around.

The Bears split their AFC South games evenly. Two are home, two are away. If those games are nixed, they'll be left with six contests at Soldier Field in 2020.

If the season proceeds as scheduled, Chicago will have three winnable games against the Texans, Jaguars and Colts in their first four. Indianapolis should be better in 2020 with Philip Rivers at quarterback, but it's still a winnable game.

The biggest challenge will be the Titans, who made an AFC Championship appearance with Ryan Tannehill behind center in 2019.

The 2020 NFL schedule will be announced on Thursday at 7pm (CT).

AP

In this Dec. 29, 2019 file photo, Minnesota Vikings running back Mike Boone (23) was tackled in the end zone for a safety by Chicago Bears inside linebacker Nick Kwiatkoski (44) in the second quarter of their NFL game in Minneapolis.

49ers schedule

The 49ers' entire 2020 season schedule will be revealed Thursday afternoon, but we already have a pretty good idea of what it might look like.

There is plenty of lingering uncertainty due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic as to when NFL games will be able to be played, and Clayton explained Wednesday how the league plans to account for that.

" The season will start off ... with the inter-conference games first, because if they have to shorten the season to 12 games, you wipe those out," Clayton said.

San Francisco's first four opponents: the Miami Dolphins (home), Buffalo Bills (home), New England Patriots (away) and New York Jets (away). All that's left to determine is the order.

"Then after that, you go into your non-common games," Clayton continued. "That'll be like Weeks 5 and 6. Remember, these are all home and away, so just kind of circling around like that."

SBL

From Page 24

championship showdown were also tightly contested with the Bears topping Game 1, 4-2, and Game 2, 4-3. In Game 3, Marvin Kaipat made the title-winning hit, as his single to the deep leftfield brought home Peyton Lizama at the bottom of the ninth inning.

After their 2016 finals win, the Bears lost the championship the following year (BSI won against the Falcons in the 2017 finals), but came back strong, clinching the 2018 and 2019 crowns.

This year, the Bears are aiming for a three-peat, as they hope SBL will hold its 2020 season competition later when

HITS

From Page 24

wonder what would have happened if he was a Niner, which is where he initially wanted to be," former Commonwealth Football League official Ed Arriola said.

Brady, who is now with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, grew up a 49ers fan having lived in the Bay Area and he even had a workout for the team joining more than 50 college players. However, the 49ers passed on him and selected Hofstra University's Giovanni Carmazzi, who did not even play a regular season game in the NFL.

Former CFL player Francis Mendiola and veteran coach John Blanco both agreed teams who snubbed Brady in the 2000 draft regret their decisions.

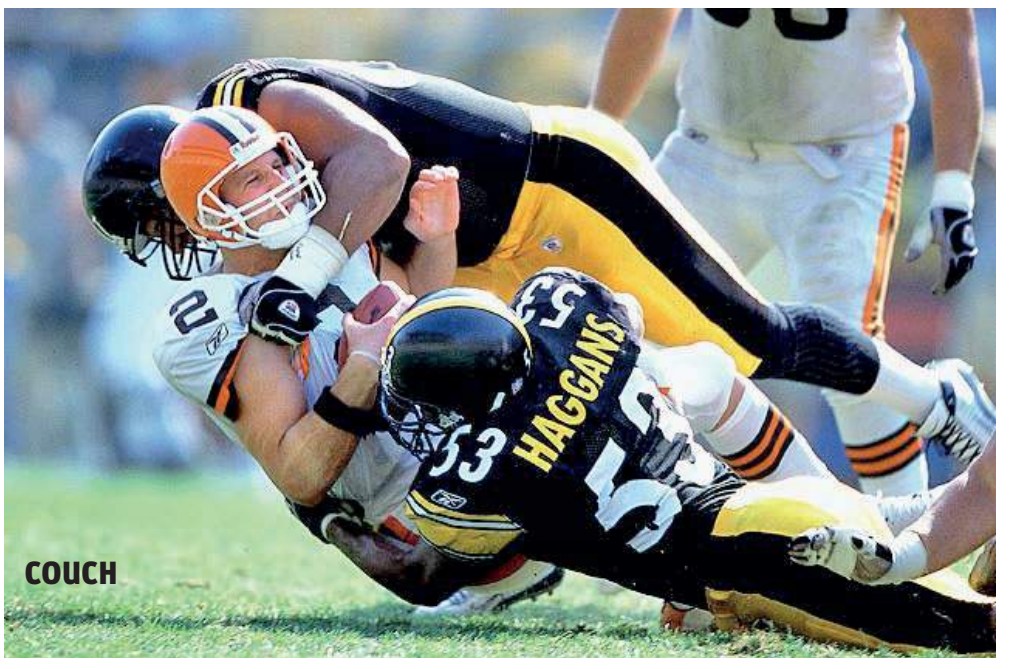
"The GOAT Tom Brady!!!! Six Super Bowl championships, going on his 20-plus years in the NFL with three NFL MVP, what else can you ask from a sixth round pick on the draft," said Mendiola.

"He was picked in the later rounds but he is arguably the GOAT in the NFL. Interesting enough, he replaced a quarterback that was also from my school (Washington State University)—Drew Bledsoe," Blanco said.

Kevin Calibo acknowledged Brady's greatness, but picked Drew Breese, who was selected by the San Diego Chargers in the second round and 32nd overall in 2001 behind Michael Vick.

Though he spent his rookie year with the Chargers, it was with the New Orleans Saints that Breese made his mark.

MANZIEL



COUCH

He signed with New Orleans in 2006 after a series of near career-ending injuries and with the Saints, Breese led the NFL quarterbacks in touchdowns, passing yards, and 300-yard games. He also owns the NFL records for career pass completions, career completion percentage, career passing yards, and career touchdown passes.

Before passing up on Brady, the 49ers managed to find a gem in Joe Montana during the 1979 NFL Draft. The 49ers selected Montana at the end of the third round with the 82nd overall pick and was the fourth QB taken, behind Jack Thompson, Phil Simms, and Steve Fuller, who were all picked in the first round. Montana was the backup of Steve DeBerg and did not get to start for the 49ers until midway of his second season in the league.

"Before Brady came, he was one of the only two NFL quarterbacks with four Super Bowl wins. He may not have those impressive stats as Brady or Breese, but when it comes to crunch time, he delivered," 49ers fans Toby Santos said.

Nicknamed the "Comeback Kid," Montana completed the game-winning TD pass in the 49ers' NFC title match against the Dallas Cowboys in 1981. Then in 1989, he threw the TD pass at the end of a 92-yard drive with only 36 seconds left in the game to lift the 49ers to the Super Bowl XXIII win over the Cincinnati Bengals.

From greatness to disappointment

Widely considered as one of the two best players in the 1998 draft, Ryan Leaf (the other one was Peyton Manning), was drafted second overall by the San Diego Chargers after a successful career with the Washington State University.

Poor behavior, injuries, and frequent miscommunication with his teammates, had the Heisman Trophy finalist calling it quits after only four seasons.

"Leaf did not perform what was expected from him on and off the field and he is not a team player," Mendiola said.

Another collegiate star who lost his luster when he moved to the NFL was Johnny Manziel.

"He was the first freshman to win the Heisman Trophy and I would love watching his games while he played in college. For some reason he just couldn't duplicate the success in the NFL," Arriola said.

The Cleveland Browns drafted Manziel in the first round for the 22nd overall pick in 2014. However, the Browns released him after two years for his uncalled for behavior (he was investigated for domestic violence). From his short NFL stint, Manziel moved to low-tier leagues. He last played for the Birmingham Iron in the Alliance of American Football in 2019 before the competition was suspended early April the same year.

BREESE

Another player who did not live up to expectations was Tim Couch.

"He was drafted ahead of Donovan McNabb," Calibo said.

Couch was drafted way ahead of everyone in the 1999 Class, as the Browns picked him first overall.

A Heisman Trophy finalist, too, Couch marked his five seasons with the Browns with multiple injuries and inconsistent plays before he called it a career in 2007 after he was released by the Jacksonville Jaguars.

Meanwhile, the NFL 2020 season is scheduled to open in September and though we don't know if the kick-off will go ahead or pushed back (depending on the development of the pandemic), one thing is for sure—the league's hits and misses list will have new members.

NBA proceeding with extreme caution

PAGE 21

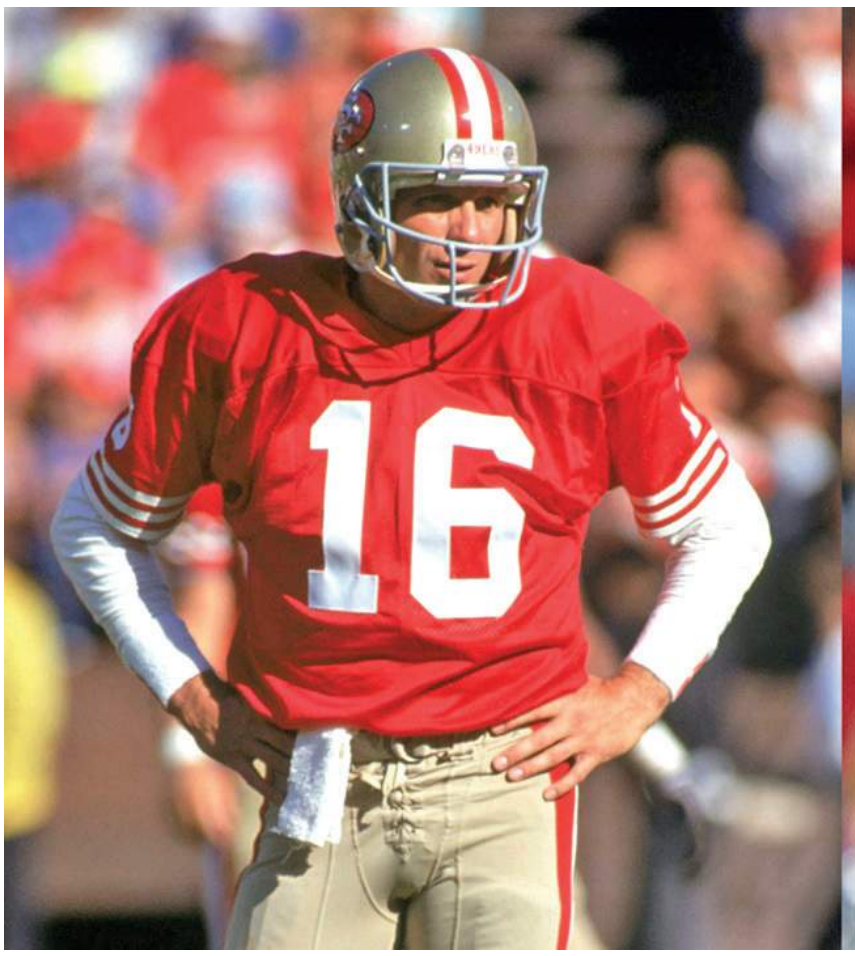
Saipan Tribune
Sports

MLB to propose season plan; eyes July opening

PAGE 22

SAIPAN FOOTBALL FANS' PICKS

Hits and misses in NFL Draft



AP

Joe Montana, left, was the 82nd overall pick in the 1979 NFL Draft and was selected by the San Francisco 49ers, while Tom Brady was the No. 199 pick overall in 2000, as he was taken by the New England Patriots in the sixth round.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The National Football League Draft concluded late last month and while we found out who went to which team, we don't know when exactly are we going to see the hits and misses in this year's rookie class due to the coronavirus pandemic.

While eagerly waiting for the newcomers to play in the NFL, *Saipan Tribune* decided to poll Saipan's football fans on the steals and busts in the league's draft history.

Let's start with those unearthed diamond in the rough.

Tom Brady and his six Super Bowl rings, four Super Bowl MVP awards, three NFL MVP plums, and a host of other individual recognitions are more than enough to convince gridiron fans on Saipan to pick him on top of the hits list.

The University of Michigan backup quarterback was taken by the New England Patriots as the No. 199 pick overall and in the second to the last (sixth) round of the 2000 draft. With the Pats, he ended up as the fourth-string QB behind Drew Bledsoe, John Friesz, and Michael Bishop before getting his break in 2001 and to say that the rest is history is an understatement.

"The best draft success has to be the legend Tom Brady. As a 49ers fan, I sometimes

See HITS on Page 23

AP

In this April 18, 1998 file photo, Ryan Leaf, center, of Washington State gets help holding up his San Diego Chargers jersey from Chargers owner Alex Spanos, left, and NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue after Leaf was chosen by the Chargers as the second pick overall in the NFL Draft in New York.

Flashback: Bears show dominance in SBL

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

On this day, four years ago, the Chalan Kanoa Bears swept the first round of the regular season competition in the Saipan Baseball League.

The Bears topped the Falcons, 11-8, to earn a 7-0 record in the opening round of the two-round robin elimination. It was a come-from-behind victory for the Bears, as they foiled the Falcons' bid to end their winning streak.

The Falcons took a 7-3 lead in the first six innings of the match, but the Bears rallied with a seven-run top of the seventh and then held the former to one run in the last three innings to keep their unblemished record.

The Bears went on to sweep the regular season, as they picked up where they left off, winning all their seven matches in the second round.

Fittingly, the Henry Lizama-managed Bears also prevailed in the finals. They were paired against the BSI Aces and wrapped up the best-of-five title series early with a 5-4 win in Game 3. The first two games in the

See SBL on Page 23

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

In this 2016 file photo, Jeffrey Lizama pitches for the Chalan Kanoa Bears during Game 2 of their title series against the BSI Aces in the Saipan Baseball League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.